

## What is Physics?

Physics studies the fundamental properties and interactions of all forms of matter. Experimental and theoretical investigations are combined to formulate mathematical relationships that describe and predict the behavior of nature.

The Physics undergraduate program can prepare students for employment, often in an industrial or governmental laboratory. The program can also prepare students for further study at graduate or professional schools in physics, engineering, biophysics, medicine, education, law or business.

The Physics B.A. program is a liberal arts degree providing the flexibility to integrate a broad foundation in physics with coursework in physics or other disciplines.

The required courses for a minimum program—students preparing for a specific career path may want to take more physics courses than required. Electives should be chosen to customize the Physics degree to the individual need of the student. Students should consult a Physics adviser to help formulate objectives for undergraduate study.

## What are the major requirements?

Go to [www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html) and select “Undergraduate majors.”

## How do I declare a Physics major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon a Physics major, meet with the director of undergraduate studies to complete a One-Year Program Plan.
3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your student community to learn more about your new major’s declaration process.

## What can I do with a major in Physics?

### Skills

Physics majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers.

These skills include:

- Critical thinking and analyzing skills
- Problem solving skills
- Mathematical reasoning
- Oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work independently as well as part of a team

## For more information:

### About the Physics major:

Undergraduate Advising  
148 Physics Building  
(612) 624-7375  
<http://www.physics.umn.edu/>

### About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Health and Natural Sciences Student Community  
B-18 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-6044  
<http://www.hns.class.umn.edu>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program  
19 Johnston Hall  
(612) 625-2300  
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/mlk@class.cla.umn.edu>

### About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community Learning Center  
135 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-7577  
[www.cclc.umn.edu](http://www.cclc.umn.edu)  
[cclc@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:cclc@class.cla.umn.edu)

### About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division  
20 Nicholson  
(612) 624-5522  
[www.cla.umn.edu/honors/honors@class.cla.umn.edu](http://www.cla.umn.edu/honors/honors@class.cla.umn.edu)

## **Employment**

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Government—public information, campaigns, federal offices
- Science—research, computer programming, engineering
- Communication—technical writer
- Business—marketing, human resources, sales, consulting, recruiting
- Education—teaching, research, student affairs

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

## **Remember!**

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

**Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!**