

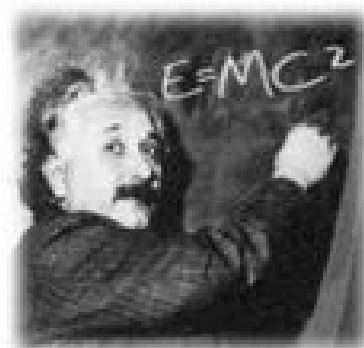
Welcome to the

Physics-Astronomy Major

in the College of Computational, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences

College Advisement Center

Website: <https://science.byu.edu/advisement>
Email: science.math.advisement@byu.edu
Phone: 801-422-2674
Office: N-181 ESC



Physics & Astronomy Department

Website: physics.byu.edu
Email: physics_office@byu.edu
Phone: 801-422-4361
Office: N-284 ESC

See physics.byu.edu/undergraduate/advising

Faculty Advisor – until you have a faculty research mentor, you must meet annually to discuss career and academic options with the faculty advisor assigned to you. Your faculty advisor is:

- 00-49: Aleksandr Mosenkov, aleksandr_mosenkov@byu.edu, 801-422-4307, N-480 ESC
- 50-99: Ben Boizelle, bozellb@byu.edu, N-484 ESC

Deadlines to meet with Faculty Advisors each year (based on the last digit of your student number):

0 or 1	2 or 3	4 or 5	6 or 7	8 or 9
October 31	November 30	January 31	February 28	March 31

Internship Coordinator – David Allred

Email: allred@byu.edu
Phone: 801-422-3489
Office: N265 ESC

University Career Services – Anna Kennington

Website: careers.byu.edu (Handshake--see flyer in packet)
Email: anna.kennington@byu.edu
Phone: 801-422-5944
Office: C-106 BNSN

Clubs

Acoustical Society of America – Contact: Brian Anderson (bea@byu.edu), visit www.acoustics.byu.edu/asa-student-chapter for more information

BYU Astronomical Society – Contact: Denise Stephens (denise_stephens@byu.edu), visit www.physics.byu.edu/clubs/astrosoc/home for more information

Society of Physics Students – Contact: Chris Verhaaren (verhaaren@physics.byu.edu), visit www.sps.byu.edu/sps-home for more information

Learning outcomes can be found here: <https://learningoutcomes.byu.edu/Courses/program-courses/694832/Physics--Astronomy+BS+/1328>

Things to Know

Resources for Graduation Planning

- Flow Charts and Major Academic Plans (MAPs) can be found here: <https://science.byu.edu/advisement/explore-majors-and-minors>.
- Academic advisors in N-181 ESC will help you understand course sequencing and help you plan classes to efficiently fill requirements. They can also help you with study skills and initial career exploration as well as connecting you with correct resources.
- Plan and register from your plan on MyMAP. Your academic advisor can help you understand how to best utilize this resource.
- Evaluate your current program. Periodically major programs are updated. An academic advisor would be happy to review the differences between the programs with you to help you determine what would be best for you.
- Consider meeting with a faculty advisor in your department. Contact info is found on the first page of this packet.

Tutoring Resources and Research

- Volunteer peer tutors are available through Y Serve if you need help with a class. Also, if you excel in a subject, consider serving your fellow students by becoming a tutor. Find out more here: <https://tutoring.byu.edu/>.
- Many departments provide TA Tutorial Labs and research opportunities. Check your department for details:
 - Chemistry and Biochemistry: C-104 BNSN, 801-422-6261, <https://chem.byu.edu/department/faculty/>
 - Computer Science: 3361 TMCB, 801-422-3027, csoffice@cs.byu.edu
 - Geological Sciences: S-389 ESC, 801-422-3918, geology@byu.edu
 - Mathematics: 275 TMCB, 801-422-2061, office@mathematics.byu.edu
 - Mathematics Education: 167 TMCB, 801-422-1735, office@mathed.byu.edu
 - Physics and Astronomy: N-283 ESC, 801-422-4361, physics_office@byu.edu
 - Statistics: 2152 WVB, 801-422-4505, statsec@stat.byu.edu

Prepare Early for a Career

- Check out Careers & Experiential Learning in 1134 WSC and at <https://ucs.byu.edu/>.
- Consider doing an internship.
 - Attend the STEM and Career Fairs held in fall and winter semesters.
 - Talk to your department about internship opportunities.
 - Use LinkedIn and Handshake (see flyer in this packet) to connect with alumni and apply for jobs/internships. BYU Connect is another great resource for networking (connect.byu.edu).
 - Talk with the college Career Director who can help you search for internships as well as assist you with many other career related strategies (see first page of this packet).
- Consider taking StDev 317 (Career Strategies) your junior year.
- Consider taking either Chem 502, CS 502, Geol 502, Math 502, PHSCS 502, or STAT 502 (1-credit Networking Class). Class is held for 1 hour each week.

BS in Physics and Astronomy (694832) MAP Sheet

Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Astronomy

For students entering the degree program during the 2024-2025 curricular year

University Core and Graduation Requirements				Suggested Sequence of Courses			
University Core Requirements:				FRESHMAN YEAR		JUNIOR YEAR	
Requirements	# Classes	Hours	Classes	<u>1st Semester</u>		<u>5th Semester</u>	
Religion Cornerstones				PHSCS 121	3.00	MATH 303	4.00
Teachings and Doctrines of the Book of Mormon	1	2.00	REL A 275	UNIV 101	2.00	PHSCS 321	3.00
Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel	1	2.00	REL A 250	PHSCS 191	0.50	PHSCS 330	1.00
Foundations of the Restoration	1	2.00	REL C 225	MATH 112	4.00	GE Arts, Letters, Sciences	3.00
The Eternal Family	1	2.00	REL C 200	First Year Writing	3.00	GE Arts, Letters, Sciences	3.00
				Religion Cornerstone Class	2.00	GE Religion	2.00
				Total Hours:	14.50	Total Hours:	16.00
BYU Foundations for Student Success				<u>2nd Semester</u>		<u>6th Semester</u>	
Foundations for Student Success	1	2.00	UNIV 101	PHSCS 123	3.00	PHSCS 329	3.00
				MATH 113	4.00	Physics Requirement 2	3.00
The Individual and Society				PHSCS 127	3.00	Open Elective	1.00
American Heritage	1 to 2	3.00-6.00	from approved list	American Heritage	3.00	GE Arts, Letters, Sciences	3.00
Global and Cultural Awareness	1	3.00	from approved list	Religion Cornerstone Class	2.00	PHSCS 318	3.00
				Total Hours:	15.00	GE Religion	2.00
						Total Hours:	15.00
Skills				SOPHOMORE YEAR			
First Year Writing	1	3.00	from approved list	<u>3rd Semester</u>		<u>7th Semester</u>	
Advanced Written and Oral Communications	1	3.00	PHSCS 416 or WRTG 316	PHSCS 220	3.00	PHSCS 427	3.00
Quantitative Reasoning	1	4.00	MATH 113*	PHSCS 227	3.00	PHSCS 441	3.00
Languages of Learning (Math of Language)	1	4.00	MATH 113*	PHSCS 230	1.00	PHSCS 451	3.00
				PHSCS 291	0.50	GE Arts, Letters, Sciences	3.00
Arts, Letters and Sciences (Complete 6 of 7)				CS 111	3.00	GE Religion	2.00
Civilization 1	1	3.00	from approved list	General Electives	2.00	Open Elective	1.00
Civilization 2	1	3.00	from approved list	Religion Cornerstone Class	2.00	Total Hours:	15.00
Arts	1	3.00	from approved list	Total Hours:	14.50		
Letters	1	3.00	from approved list	<u>4th Semester</u>		<u>8th Semester</u>	
Biological Science	1	3.00-4.00	from approved list	PHSCS 222	3.00	PHSCS 416 or WRTG 316	3.00
Physical Science	2	3.00	PHSCS 222*	PHSCS 228	3.00	PHSCS 428	3.00
Social Science	1	3.00	from approved list	MATH 302	4.00	Open Elective	1.00
				GE Arts, Letters, Sciences	3.00	Physics Requirement 2	3.00
Core Enrichment: Electives				Religion Cornerstone Class	2.00	RHSCS 498R	2.00
Religion Electives	3 to 4	6.00	from approved list	Total Hours:	15.00	Global and Cultural Awareness	3.00
Open Electives	Variable	Variable	personal choice			Total Hours:	15.00
Graduation Requirements:							
Minimum residence hours required		30.00					
Minimum hours needed to graduate		120.00					
*These classes fill both university core and program requirements							

Program Requirements

No more than 3 hours of D credit is allowed in major courses.

Requirement 1 —Complete 1 Requirement

Requirement 1.1 —Complete 20 Courses

C S 111 - Intro to Computer Science 3.0

MATH 113 - Calculus 2 4.0

PHSCS 121 - Intro to Newtonian Mechanics 3.0

PHSCS 123 - Intro to Waves, Optics, Thermo 3.0

PHSCS 127 - Descriptive Astronomy 3.0

PHSCS 191 - Intro Phscs Careers & Rsrch 1 0.5

PHSCS 220 - Intro Electricity & Magnetism 3.0

PHSCS 222 - Modern Physics 3.0

PHSCS 227 - Solar System Astronomy 3.0

PHSCS 228 - Stars & Galaxies 3.0

PHSCS 230 - Computational Physics Lab 1 1.0

PHSCS 291 - Intro Phscs Careers & Rsrch 2 0.5

PHSCS 318 - Intro Math Physics 3.0

PHSCS 321 - Mechanics 3.0

PHSCS 329 - Observational Astronomy 3.0

PHSCS 330 - Computational Physics Lab 2 1.0

PHSCS 427 - Stellar Astrophysics 3.0

PHSCS 428 - Galaxies and Cosmology 3.0

PHSCS 441 - Electricity & Magnetism 3.0

PHSCS 451 - Quantum Mechanics 3.0

Note: Phscs 191 should be taken the first semester as a freshman. Phscs 291

should be taken the first semester as a sophomore.

Requirement 2 —Complete 2 of 4 Courses

PHSCS 360 - Statistical & Thermal Physics 3.0

PHSCS 442 - Electrodynamics 3.0

PHSCS 452 - Appl Quantum Mechanics 3.0

PHSCS 471 - Principles of Optics 3.0

Requirement 3 —Complete 1 of 2 Options

Option 3.1 —Complete 2 Courses

MATH 302 - Math for Engr 1 4.0

MATH 303 - Math for Engineering 2 4.0

Option 3.2 —Complete 4 Courses

MATH 213 - Elementary Linear Algebra 2.0

MATH 215 - Computational Linear Algebra 1.0

MATH 314 - Calculus of Several Variables 3.0

MATH 334 - Ordinary Differential Equation 3.0

Requirement 4 —Complete 1 Requirement

Senior thesis:

Complete a senior thesis, including the following:

A. Choose a research mentor and group as early as possible, starting with information in Phscs 191 and 192, and discussions with faculty, your advisor, and the senior thesis coordinator. It is best to start as a freshman or sophomore. Some internships may qualify for your project.

Requirement 4.1 —Complete 2 hours

B.

PHSCS 498R - Senior Thesis - You may take up to 2.0 credit hours 0.5v

Requirement 5 — Obtain confirmation from your advisement center that you have completed the following:

Students are required to take the Physics "Major Field Test" the last semester before they graduate. The test is a standardized assessment of undergraduate physics written by ETS (Educational Testing Service). The ETS website contains a description of the exam and sample problems: <http://www.ets.org/mft/about/content/physics>. Results of the exam do not appear on the transcript or affect the GPA. Students should contact the Physics undergraduate secretary to make arrangements for taking the exam; typically it's done in the Testing Center before mid-semester.

Note: Students planning on graduate school in astronomy should consider taking all four of Phscs 360, 442, 452, 471, instead of only two. Gain statistics and computer programming skills beyond what you get in this

major by taking courses such as Stat 201 (Statistics for Engineers and Scientists) and courses such as Phscs 430 (Computational Physics 3) and Me En 373 (Introduction to Scientific Computing).

THE DISCIPLINE:

Over the centuries physicists and astronomers have studied the fundamental principles that govern the structure and dynamics of matter and energy in the physical world, from subatomic particles to the cosmos. Physicists also apply this understanding to the development of new technologies. For example, physicists invented the first lasers and semiconductor electronic devices.

Physics and astronomy students learn to approach complex problems in science and technology from a broad background in mechanics, electricity and magnetism, statistical and thermal physics, quantum mechanics, relativity, and optics. The tools they develop at BYU include problem solving by mathematical and computational modeling, as well as experimental discovery and analysis. All students gain professional experience in a research, capstone, or internship project, usually in close association with faculty. Together these experiences can provide excellent preparation for employment or for graduate studies in physics, other sciences, engineering, medicine, law, or business.

Most physicists and astronomers work in research and development in industrial, government, or university labs to solve new problems in technology and science. They also share the beauty discovered in our physical universe by teaching in high schools, colleges, and universities.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

A degree in physics or physics-astronomy can provide:

1. Preparation for those who intend to enter industrial or governmental service as physicists or astronomers.
2. Education for those who intend to pursue graduate work in physics or astronomy.
3. Education in the subject matter of physics for prospective teachers of the physical sciences.
4. Undergraduate education for those who will pursue graduate work in the professions: business (e.g., an MBA), law, medicine, etc.
5. Fundamental background for other physical sciences and engineering, in preparation for graduate study in these fields.
6. Physics fundamentals required by the biological science, medical, dental, nursing, and related programs.

For more information, see www.physics.byu.edu/undergraduate/careers.

MAP DISCLAIMER

While every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy, there are some student populations that could have exceptions to listed requirements. Please refer to the university catalog and your college advisement center/department for complete guidelines.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

FACULTY ADVISORS ASSIGNED BY LAST TWO DIGITS OF BYU ID NUMBER.

CONTACT:

Department of Physics and Astronomy

Brigham Young University

N-283 ESC

Provo, UT 84602

Telephone: (801) 422-4361

ADVISEMENT CENTER INFORMATION

Computational, Mathematical, & Physical Sciences College Advisement

Center Brigham Young University

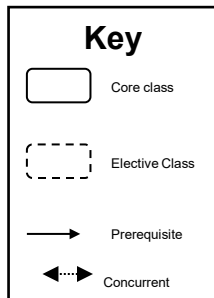
N-181 ESC

Provo, UT 84602

Telephone: (801) 422-2674

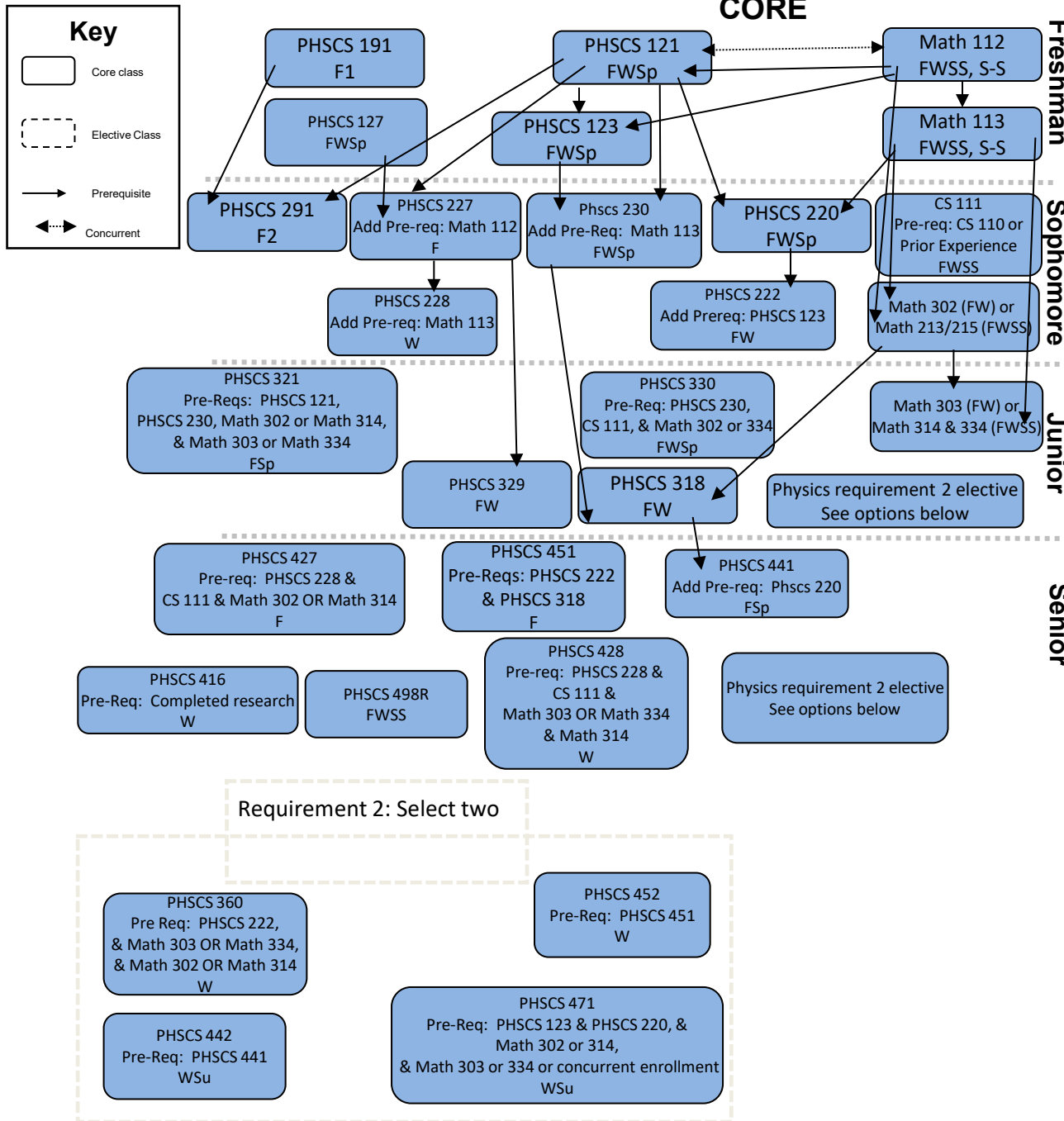
Physics and Astronomy BS

Requirements / Prerequisites
2024-2025 Academic Year



CORE

Freshman
Sophomore
Junior
Senior



Major (68-69 Hours)

- No more than 3 Hours of D credit is allowed in major courses.
- Complete the following courses: CS 111, Math 113, PHSCS 121, PHSCS 123, PHSCS 127, PHSCS 191, PHSCS 220, PHSCS 222, PHSCS 227, PHSCS 228, PHSCS 230, PHSCS 291, PHSCS 318, PHSCS 321, PHSCS 329, PHSCS 330, PHSCS 427, PHSCS 428, PHSCS 441, PHSCS 451.
- Complete two courses of the following: PHSCS 360, PHSCS 442, PHSCS 452, PHSCS 471.
- Complete one of the following math options: Take either Math 302 and Math 303 OR Math 213, Math 215, Math 314, and Math 334.
- Complete two credits from PHSCS 498R.
- Take the Physics Major Field Test your last semester.

Astronomy Minor

No D credit may count towards the minor

Complete the following 6 courses: Math 113, PHSCS 121, PHSCS 127, PHSCS 227, PHSCS 228, PHSCS 329

handshake

BYU's own job board. Employers who want to hire BYU graduates or offer internships to current students post job openings to this website and students apply. Just like LinkedIn, employers can view student profiles and students can network as they apply for jobs and internships

Login to handshake.byu.edu >>> BYU Net ID

**you do not need to create an account, just sign in with you BYU information*



HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF HANDSHAKE:

1. COMPLETE YOUR PROFILE

- Upload your resume and it will auto-fill in your profile
- Completed profiles tailor your Handshake experience
- Information from your transcript is already uploaded
- Fill in the Summary/Bio section
- Fill in your past jobs and experiences, including all the bullet points you use on your resume
- Add a professional headshot and background photo

Remember: every word in your profile will be searchable by students and employers

4. EXPLORE FELLOW STUDENTS

- “Students” tab
- Search for fellow BYU students to view their profiles and job positions (Facebook stalking... “networking”)

5. ATTEND EVENTS

- The “Events” tab will be your key to attending info sessions, interviews, and Career Fairs
- The “Calendar” tab under “Events” will show you what events are coming soon
- Make sure to save events you are interested in or RSVP so you do not forget to attend
- Spread the word to your friends on social media

6. DOWNLOAD HANDSHAKE APP

- Search: “Handshake” not “Handshake Career Services”
- Input your BYU e-mail address: netID@byu.edu (it will forward emails to the e-mail you have on file with BYU)
- Handshake will send you a link via e-mail to enable your account in the app
- Navigate the app to perform all the functions of the website that have been previously mentioned

7. VISIT THE CAREER STUDIO

- Freshen up your resume, cover letter, or LinkedIn
- Receive networking help
- Practice interviewing with a mock interview
- Meet with a full-time Career Counselor in your field

8. GET A JOB, RING THE BELL

- Once you're hired, stop by the Career Studio to ring our Victory Bell and get a picture for the Victory Board



employers are
5X MORE LIKELY
to view a profile that has
at least one job/skill/organization

2. APPLY FOR JOBS

- Search for job titles, employers, or skills
- Apply for interesting jobs that meet your skill set

3. RESEARCH COMPANIES

- Under the “Jobs” Tab there is an “Employers” Tab
- Search for keywords or locations to find companies that are the right fit for you
- Plan to attend their info sessions on BYU Campus, connect with them at Career Fairs, or set up informational interviews to learn more

Remember: when looking at companies or jobs, Handshake will tell you what other BYU students have worked there. Use this resource to network and discover more information!

Possible Careers with a Physics major

(Not a comprehensive list)

Accelerator operator	Manager, esp. high-tech industry
Acoustician	Materials scientist*
Aerodynamicist*	Mathematician*
Aerospace Scientist	Medical doctor*
Astronomer*	Medical physicist*
Biophysicist*	Meteorologist
Biotechnologist	Nanotechnology microscopist
Business administration, esp. high-tech industry	National security analyst
Business, self-employed	Neurologist*
Computer scientist (many types: financial software developer, hardware engineer, IT consultant, programmer, software engineer, systems analyst, web developer, etc.)	Noise and vibration engineer
Dentist*	Nuclear medicine technologist
Data Scientist	Nuclear pharmacist*
Engineer (many types: Aerospace, Chemical, Electrical, Electro-optic, Mechanical, Medical device, Nuclear, Optical/laser, Semiconductor device, Manufacturing, Design, Process, Quality Control, Research & Development, Systems, etc.)	Optical Scientist*
Financial analyst	Patent agent or lawyer*
Geophysicist*	Physicist* (many types: Astrophysics, Atomic & Molecular, Biological, Condensed Matter, Nuclear, Optical & Photonic, Particle, Plasma & Fusion, etc.)
Hazardous waste management specialist	Professor* (university, college, community college)
Health physicist*	Research lab assistant, research technician
Lawyer (esp. patents)*	Sales, esp. high-tech industry
	Space scientist
	Scientific computer programmer
	Teacher (high school physics, high school science, middle school science)

*Usually requires a graduate degree

Gathered from the Counseling and Career Center and from the American Institute of Physics (aip.org)

Research Groups

Group	Day	Time	Location
Acoustics	Thursday	4:00PM	ESC C261
Astronomy	Every other Thursday	10:00AM	ESC N485
Atomic, Molecular, Optical Computational X-ray Imaging	Contact individual professors		
Condensed Matter	Wednesday	3:00PM	ESC N288
Materials for Space Observatories	Thursday	4:00PM	ESC N288
Quantum	Monday	2:00PM	ESC N265
Science Education	Thursday	2:00PM	ESC N309
Theoretical and Mathematical	Thursday	10:00AM	ESC N209
	Tuesday	3:00PM	ESC N209

*For most updated information on times and locations of research groups, please visit: <https://www.physics.byu.edu/undergraduate/research> Be sure to scroll down to the professors for additional information.