

DO PHYSICS.

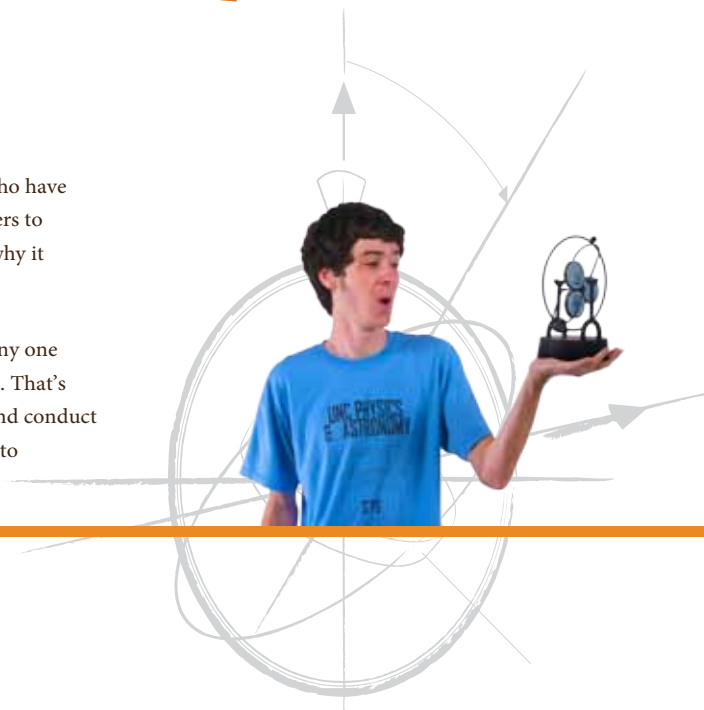
BE ANYTHING.

UNC PHYSICS

We Mean It – Anything.

When you wonder about how and why things work, you wonder about physics. Those who have wondered before you are responsible for everything from Internet to iPhones to computers to digital everything. Physics also explores the big questions like how the universe started, why it continues to exist and whether it is expanding.

Pondering and tackling these challenges develops problem solving skills that transcend any one academic pursuit or business sector. Physics is more than just a career path. It's a skill set. That's why 90 percent of all people with a physics background do something other than teach and conduct research at a university. And physics will prepare you to pursue anything from medicine to renewable energy to business. Do physics. Be anything. We mean it.



Myths and Facts About UNC Physics

Myth: Physics is too hard.

Fact: Engineering, chemistry, biology and physics — it's all hard. Take your choice. You can spend a lot of your time memorizing stuff or you can spend your time thinking about stuff. Don't let the math freak you out, before you even consider physics. Let your mind wonder and explore. What do you want to know? What "why" questions intrigue you? Build an AM radio or build a circuit. Investigate something. Physics is observational. Math is a tool to help you explore those observations deeply.

Myth: Physics is too abstract.

Fact: Your pursuit of physics can be what you want. If you want to pursue whether particles have mass you can. If you want to know how black holes form, then knock yourself out. But physics is also an applied science. Without three key past discoveries that won the Nobel Prizes for Physics in the last ten years, there would be no Internet, iPhones, computers or digital anything. MRI technology, PET and CT scans, and proton beam therapy for cancer patients were also developed from physics principles.

Myth: I'm going to medical school and physics doesn't make sense for me.

Fact: Most students going to medical school are biology majors. It's hard to make yourself stand out to medical school admissions representatives when you're just one of many biology majors. Also, there are specialties within medicine that are especially suited for physics majors — nuclear medicine, diagnostic medicine and proton beam therapy. Lastly, you can major in physics and be pre-med; in particular, BA in biological physics — it's just that not too many people know it.

Myth: A physics degree will take too long.

Fact: A typical BA in physics requires 21 credit hours beyond the introductory courses plus an additional math course at a higher level than calculus. A BS requires 43 credit hours beyond the introductory courses plus an additional math course at a level higher than calculus. Compare those to 23 hours for a BA in Chemistry beyond the introductory courses, 44 hours for a BS in Chemistry, and 53 hours for a BS in Biomedical Engineering.

Myth: Physics is intriguing, but I'm not sure I would like it.

Fact: Carolina Physics offers a nurturing environment for personal and profession growth. Our majors enjoy a high faculty to student ratio (1:4), small class sizes, individual advising by a member of the faculty, early exposure to cutting-edge research (UNC ranked 8th in research activities among all universities in the US), and an exceptional social network within the Society of Physics Students and Women in Physics. There are many tracks/options to choose from within the BS or the BA, including Biological Physics, Energy, and Quantitative Finance, in addition to Physics and Astrophysics.

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