Ball State University Department of Physics and Astronomy Careers in Physics and Astronomy

The Ball State University Department of Physics and Astronomy offers the following undergraduate majors:

Major in Physics-General Option: Preparation for graduate school or industry

Major in Physics-Applied Option: Preparation for industry

Teaching Major in Physics: Certification for teaching high school physics

Teaching Major in Physical Science (physics option): Certification for teaching physics *and* chemistry **Pre-Engineering Major**: Five-year program for students who transfer to accredited schools of engineering

Following are some of the main fields of physics:

plasma physics nuclear physics condensed matter physics acoustics optics and quantum optics geophysics physics education particle physics medical physics biophysics atmospheric physics atomic & molecular physics astrophysics computational physics

Employer distribution for full-time US physics bachelors (class of 2006-2007):

Industry	59%
High School	13%
Military	5%
College/University	10%
Civilian Government	6%
Other	7%

http://www.aip.org/statistics/trends/emp bachelor.html

Type of employment of physics bachelors 5 to 7 years after earning their degrees (1999):

Software	28%
Engineering	17%
Science and Lab Technician	10%
Management, Owner & Finance	19%
Education	12%
Active Military	5%
Service & Other Non-Technical	9%

http://www.aip.org/statistics

Careers that make use of a background in physics or may be performed by physicists:

Engineering
Computer Science
Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Therapy
Medical Imaging (MRI, CAT, PET and
Ultrasound)
Oceanography
Patent Law
Communications
Archeology

Astronomers pursue an undergraduate degree in physics. Following is a list of positions (jobs) filled by astronomers:

Academic	60%
Observatories (Government and	Private)30%
Museums, Public Information	5%
Business and Industry	5%

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Following is a list of academic, engineering, medical, and research positions currently held by Ball State University Physics and Astronomy bachelors and/or masters graduates:

Highest Degree Earned: Bachelors

Acoustical Engineer Computer Analyst Construction

Consulting Director

Contractor Electrician

Entertainment Management

Firefighter/EMT Health Actuary High School Teacher

Information Technology Programmer

Instructional Designer

Marketing VP

Mechanical/Aero Engineer Naval Aviation Depot Director

Network Specialist Plating Engineer

Power Systems Technical Support

Program Manager Radiation Monitor Software Engineer Systems Consultant Test Engineer WAN Engineer

Highest Degree Earned: Doctoral

Engineer Meteorologist

Operations Research Analyst

Optometrist

Physicist -Airline Company

Product Development Systems Analyst -Optics

Technical Support Engineer

University Professor

Highest Degree Earned: Masters

Aerospace Engineer

Airline Pilot

Assoc Dir -Transportation Engineering Services

Business Development Director

Consulting Geologist
Design Manager
Electrical Engineer
Engineering Director
Environmental Consultant
Geophysicist Technical Support

High School Teacher Insurance Agent

Manufacturing Engineer Materials Engineer Medical Physicist Network System Analyst

Nuclear Safety Engineer Consultant

Optician

Planetarium Director

Programmer Project Manager

R&D Materials Scientist Radiation Therapy Physicist

Resource Supervisor

Restaurant Owner/Operator

Satellite Engineer Software Engineer Speech Pathologist Technical Consultant Technical Support Engineer