



## CAREER *services* CENTER

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**XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICS MAJORS

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## SKILLS & ABILITIES OF THE PHYSICS MAJOR

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### Communication

- Developing and writing research proposals
- Reviewing scientific literature
- Summarizing research findings
- Informing/explaining/instructing
- Preparing technical reports

### Computation and Mathematical

- Measuring distance/sizes/relationships
- Performing calculations
- Mathematical modeling
- Maintaining records
- Utilizing mathematical formulas

### Technical

- Designing Equipment
- Observing data/things
- Identifying and classifying materials/specimens
- Designing/using computer simulations
- Using instruments

### Investigation

- Defining research problems
- Developing a research model
- Establishing a research model
- Gathering/analyzing data
- Seeing relationships among factors

*\*Partially taken from the University of Kansas University Career Center*

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## POTENTIAL CAREERS

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### Government

- Acoustics Physicist
- Aerodynamist
- Air Traffic Controller
- Biophysicist
- Chemical Physicist
- Computer Specialist/Scientist/Programmer
- Health Physicist
- Fiber Optic Engineer
- Geophysicist
- Laser Engineer
- Molecular Physicist
- Nuclear Physicist
- Quality Assurance Specialist
- Research Physicist
- Solid Earth/Solid State Physicist
- Teacher/Professor
- Technical Writer
- And More...

### Private

- Acoustics Physicist
- Agricultural Scientist
- Astronomer
- Astrophysicist
- Fluids Physicist
- Geophysicist
- Health Physicist
- Hydrologist
- Mathematician
- Medical Device Designer
- Optical Physicist
- Plasma Physicist
- Salesperson/Scientific Apparatus
- Seismologist
- Solid Earth/Solid State Physicist
- Stratigrapher
- Technical Writer
- And More...

*Additional graduate study is generally expected for many occupations listed above.*

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## TYPES OF EMPLOYERS

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- Businesses and Corporations
- State and Federal Government
- Self-Employed
- Schools
- Colleges and Universities
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Military

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## TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS EMPLOYING PERSONS WITH A BACHELORS IN PHYSICS

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Top and mid-level managers, executives, administrators	12.8%
Electrical and electronics engineers	8.8%
Computer programmers	6.3%
Physicists and Astronomers	6.1%
Computer engineers	5.4%
Computer systems analysts	4.6%
All other engineers	4.5%
Insurance, securities, real estate, business services	3.5%
Aeronautical, aerospace, and astronautical engineers	3.0%
Teachers, secondary school	2.8%

*\*Taken from The College Majors Handbook (Fogg, Harrington, & Harrington) 2004*

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## RELATED BOOKS IN THE CAREER RESOURCE LIBRARY (GSC 310)

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- Great Jobs for Engineering Majors
- Careers in Focus: Mathematics & Physics
- Careers in Focus: Energy
- Careers in Focus: Engineering
- Resumes for Engineering Careers
- Resumes for Scientific and Technical Careers