ASTRONOMY–PHYSICS, BS

Astronomy, the oldest of the sciences, originated in the human urge to understand the mysterious lights we see in the sky above us: the Sun, the Moon, the planets, and the stars. Over the centuries, new tools have become available to study these cosmic icons, such as telescopes that allow us to see farther, detectors that are sensitive to electromagnetic signals at nonvisible wavelengths, and satellites that can observe from outside the confines of the Earth's atmosphere. These tools have answered many questions, and raised even more. How did the Universe begin, and how did the stars and galaxies within it form? How will it end? Are there habitable planets around other stars—and has life emerged on these planets?

CHOOSE THE ASTRONOMY—PHYSICS MAJOR BECAUSE:

- It's fascinating: Astronomy speaks directly to our natural desire to better understand our place in the cosmos.
- It's challenging: Astronomy studies objects that are distant beyond simple conception.
- It's adaptable: Astronomy develops a broad set of transferable skills, from a foundation in logical and quantitative reasoning through to data analysis, programming, and visualization.

The Astronomy–Physics program builds on a foundation of classical and modern physics, allowing for a comprehensive study of the observable Universe at scales extending from planets and stars, through to galaxies and the cosmic web.

RELATED PROGRAMS

L&S Physics major (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/physics/physics-ba/) in the Guide

Medical Physics

A suggested curriculum for students interested in graduate study in Medical Physics is available on the Department of Medical Physics webpage (https://www.medphysics.wisc.edu/graduate-program/admissions/#requirements).