

# PHYSICS, BA

## WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

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#### PHYSICS CLUB

The Society of Physics Students (<https://win.wisc.edu/organization/physicsclub/>), the Physics Club, is a student organization for people interested in physics and related fields.

The Physics Club organizes events such as seminars, tours, trips, and socials for its members. In the the past, we have taken a field trip to Fermilab and have frequently gathered for social events such as ice skating, movie night, and bowling. Physics Club volunteers also offer free drop-in tutoring to students in introductory physics and astronomy classes. In addition, we maintain subscriptions to science-related magazines such as *Scientific American*, *Astronomy*, and *Physics Today*, which are kept in the club's room located at 2328 Chamberlin Hall.

By joining the Physics Club you'll be meeting many physics majors, who are, in general, really cool people to hang out with. If you are thinking about declaring a Physics major, this is the place to come for helpful advice about taking classes and finding an undergraduate job in the physics department. If you join, you can get access to the Physics Club room. Joining also adds you to the club email list, so you can be notified about club-sponsored events.

To join, email [physics.society.wisc@gmail.com](mailto:physics.society.wisc@gmail.com) or drop by Room 2328 Chamberlin Hall and pick up a membership form. Turn in a completed form with your annual dues to a Physics Club officer.

#### GENDER MINORITIES AND WOMEN IN PHYSICS

Gender Minorities and Women in Physics (<https://gmawip.physics.wisc.edu/>) (GMAWiP) is a student organization open to undergraduates for the support and promotion of gender minorities and women in physics at UW-Madison. We provide both professional development and support for women and gender minorities in physics at every step in their careers by taking concrete actions through career development, mentorship, fellowship, and outreach.

We also advocate for other minorities in physics, including, but not limited to students of color, students with disability status, low-income students, and LGBT+ students. The group hosts social events aimed at building a sense of community among the members.

#### Undergraduate Mentorship Program

GMAWiP provides a mentorship program for undergraduate students. This program connects the undergraduate with a graduate student who will advise and mentor the undergraduate as they work to obtain their degree. If you are interested in this mentorship program or are interested in getting involved with GMAWiP, please contact the undergraduate advisor.

#### BLACK AND BROWN IN PHYSICS

Black and Brown in Physics (<https://bbip.physics.wisc.edu/>) (BBiP) is a student organization that creates a safe and welcoming community for the Black and Brown people within physics and physics-adjacent! BBiP hosts general meetings, heritage-based events, and by inviting Black and Brown physicists, educators, and historians to provide talks for both the

organization and the Physics department. To get involved, please email [bbipuw@gmail.com](mailto:bbipuw@gmail.com).

#### PHYSICS LEARNING CENTER

The Physics Learning Center: Striving to help all students succeed in Physics.

- Do you enjoy Physics?
- Are you patient?
- Do you like to teach?
- Would you like to help other undergraduate students?

The Physics Learning Center has job opportunities for Physics undergraduates as peer mentor tutors, to help others learn physics and new ways to solve physics problems.

The Physics Learning Center provides supplemental instruction and a supportive learning environment to students in large challenging introductory physics courses. They include algebra-based PHYSICS 103 General Physics + PHYSICS 104 General Physics and calculus-based PHYSICS 207 General Physics + PHYSICS 208 General Physics, which are requisites for many STEM majors and pre-health professional pathways. The majority of students in these classes are not majoring in Physics.

Peer mentor tutors lead a learning team twice a week helping students build a conceptual framework to solve a variety of physics problems. The Physics Learning Center strives to create a supportive learning environment to help students gain skills, increase confidence, and meet potential study partners.

Peer mentor tutors receive extensive training in teaching physics and in general pedagogy. Tutors meet with a Physics Learning Center staff member each week to discuss strategies for teaching course content, including how to use teaching materials that stress conceptual understanding. In addition, peer mentor tutors from all courses meet as a group for a weekly teaching seminar to discuss issues such as group dynamics, techniques for actively involving students in learning, helping students to prepare for exams, raising awareness of diversity in student experiences, resources on campus, etc.

Our peer mentor tutors report that they greatly enjoy working with their students. In the process, they strengthen their own foundation in physics and presentation skills. They also tell us that teaching physics helps to review for the Graduate Record Exam and to prepare for post-graduate teaching in middle/high school or as a university teaching assistant.

Peer mentor tutors are a mix of students majoring in Physics, Astronomy-Physics, secondary science education, and engineering, as well as from other majors. This is a paid position taking about eight hours per week that includes learning team time, content and pedagogy meetings, reviews before exams, and time to prepare for teaching.

To find out more about the PLC Peer Mentor Tutor Program, please contact us.

#### Physics Learning Center

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