Physics & Astronomy

Interested in Physics?

**Bachelor of Science**
Students planning to continue into graduate study, or who, for any reason, want a comprehensive curriculum, are advised to take the professional degree program. This program can be completed in four years, although some students take five years. Students who want a less comprehensive program may choose the standard degree, which takes less time. It is possible, although we strongly discourage it, to enter graduate school with the standard degree and take the missing courses as a graduate student. With fewer required courses, the standard degree enables a student interested in medicine or law, for example, to take the necessary preparatory courses for a professional program.

**J. Clarence Karcher Scholarship**
The scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit as evidenced by grades and achievement test scores. [Current college students should have a GPA greater than 3.00.] The scholarships are $1,400 per academic year ($700 if the student has a general university-administered academic scholarship in the amount of $1000 or more).

**Society for Physics Students**
The OU Society of Physics Students (SPS) is the University of Oklahoma chapter of the National Society of Physics Students, a daughter organization of the American Institute of Physics. SPS is a professional society for students of physics, and anyone interested in physics. The goals of the Society include fostering an interest in physics and physics research, promoting friendship among physics students and between students and faculty, and providing information to students about graduate school, grants, scholarships, and research opportunities.

**Physics Curriculum**
Whether you choose to major in Physics, Astronomy, Astrophysics, or Engineering Physics your required courses in physics and mathematics will be very similar. In the first two years, they are nearly identical. Over four years, Physics majors take a few more courses in physics and mathematics; and Astronomy/Astrophysics majors take astrophysics courses instead. Engineering Physics majors take, in addition to the physics and math courses, all the engineering courses required for a professional engineering degree. The exact requirements for each degree are given in the pages that follow.

Special Points of Interest

- Research opportunities with current professors and Post Doctoral students.
- Opportunities to join professional organizations and society’s geared towards the advancement of Physics.
- Students can visit the OU Physics website to learn about the Major in Astronomy.

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