Why Study Physics?

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• More diverse job opportunities
  – R&D, Software, Education, Law, Medicine,
  – Management, Sales, Marketing, Communications
• Low unemployment
• Good pay
• Challenging & fun!
Initial Employment Sectors of Physics Bachelor's, Classes of 2005 & 2006

- Private Sector: 57%
- High School: 13%
- College & Universities: 11%
- Civilian government, FFR&DC*: 8%
- Active Military: 5%
- Other: 6%

* FFR&DC: Federally Funded Research & Development Center

AIP Statistical Research Center, Initial Employment Survey
Field of Employment for Physics Bachelors in the Private Sector, Classes of 2005 and 2006

- Engineering: 31%
- Non-STEM: 32%
- Computer or Information Systems: 17%
- Other Technology: 7%
- Other Natural Sciences: 7%
- Physics or Astronomy: 5%
- Math: 2%
- Education: 1%

STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

AIP Statistical Research Center, Initial Employment Survey
Typical Starting Salaries for Physics Bachelor's Classes of 2005 & 2006

Employer
- Private Sector STEM
- Private Sector non-STEM
- Active Military
- High School Teachers
- College or University

Typical Salaries (in thousands of dollars)

Note: Typical salaries are the middle 50%, i.e., between the 25th and 75th percentiles. STEM refers to positions in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

AIP Statistical Research Center, Initial Employment Survey
Figure 3. Starting salaries for physics degree recipients in the private sector, classes of 2005 & 2006.

Bachelor's non-STEM

Bachelor's STEM

Master's

PhD's

Salaries in Thousands of Dollars

Note: Typical salaries are the middle 50%, i.e. between the 25th and 75th percentiles.

STEM refers to positions in science, technology, engineering and math.

AIP Statistical Research Center, Initial Employment Survey.
Figure 17. Percent of bachelor's, master's and doctorates in physics earned by women, 1973-2005.

Note: A form change occurred in 1994 resulting in a more accurate representation of women among physics bachelors. Some of the increase in 1994 only, may be a result of that change.

AIP Statistical Research Center, Enrollments and Degrees Report.