

# PHILOSOPHY

## What can I do with this degree?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### STRATEGIES

#### SOCIAL/COMMUNITY SERVICES

Research  
Fund Raising  
Counseling  
Volunteer Coordination  
Grant Writing  
Administration

Nonprofit organizations  
Social service organizations  
Public interest research groups  
Museums  
Mental health agencies

Develop excellent verbal and written communication skills.  
Gain related work experience.  
Volunteer in relevant organizations.  
Obtain master's degree in social work or counseling as well as applicable state licensure for therapy positions.  
Become familiar with grant writing techniques.

#### RELIGION/MINISTRY

Clergy  
Administration  
Missions

Local churches or synagogues  
District, regional, national, and world denominational headquarters  
Religiously affiliated schools, colleges, and universities  
Local, national, and international mission fields  
Religious organizations

Obtain appropriate seminary training for clergy positions.  
Become certified through a denomination for specialized staff positions.  
Gain related experience through volunteering with local churches or religious organizations.  
Develop applicable foreign language skills for international mission work.  
Seek leadership positions in campus religious organizations.  
Complete an internship or summer position with a religious camp or missionary organization.

#### EDUCATION

Teaching  
Research  
Administration  
Student Affairs

Colleges and universities  
Adult education programs  
Vocational-technical educational programs  
Professional or graduate schools including medical

Obtain a doctorate degree for opportunities in teaching and/or research.  
Develop one or more concentrations, such as mathematics, medical or business ethics, science, or religion.  
Gain related experience through internships, volunteering, or part-time employment.  
Earn a master's degree in a specialized area (e.g., Library and Information Sciences, College Student Personnel, or Counseling).  
Seek campus leadership positions such as peer mentor or resident assistant.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### GOVERNMENT

Public Policy  
Research  
Regional Planning  
City Management  
Intelligence  
Foreign Service  
Law Enforcement  
Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Services  
Program Administration  
Elected or Appointed Leadership  
Campaign Management  
Staff Administration  
Special Interest Advocacy

Federal, state, and local government  
Commission on Civil Rights  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Department of Energy  
Federal Communications Commission  
Foreign Service  
Federal Municipal Archives  
National and State Endowments for the Humanities  
Legislative, executive, or judicial officials  
Political action committees  
Special interest groups  
Political parties  
Campaigns (national, state, or local)

Become familiar with federal, state, and local job application processes.  
Supplement curriculum with courses in political science, public administration, or business.  
Complete an internship in government or related area.  
Serve in model United Nations.  
Become involved in student government.  
Participate in cultural groups and organizations.  
Write for campus publications focused on national and international affairs.  
Develop skills in computers, statistics, and data analysis.  
Acquire foreign language competency and travel experience for international positions.  
Earn a graduate degree in political science or public administration for advancement.  
Volunteer with the staff of a government official.  
Participate in local or national campaigns.

### ETHICS

Medical  
Environmental  
Research

Hospitals  
Medical and professional schools  
Colleges and universities  
Consulting services  
Research organizations  
Health science funding agencies  
Environmental agencies

Obtain Ph.D. for most positions.  
Participate in related professional organizations.  
Join debate groups.  
Develop excellent research skills.  
Hone verbal and written communication skills.

### LAW

Law firms  
Corporations  
Federal, state, and local government  
Private practice  
Special interest groups  
Universities

Obtain law degree.  
Develop excellent research and writing skills.  
Participate in debate or mock trial.  
Maintain a high grade point average.  
Gain experience through part-time employment or internships in legal settings.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### **WRITING**

Editing  
Technical Writing  
Journalism  
Advertising  
Public Relations

Publishing companies  
Magazine and newspaper companies  
Professional and trade associations  
Advertising agencies and departments  
Electronic media organizations

Serve on college newspaper staff.  
Develop excellent writing and desktop publishing skills.  
Take courses in journalism, advertising, public relations, or English.  
Gain related experience.  
Become a student member of a related professional group.

### **BUSINESS**

Management  
Sales  
Human Resources  
Market Research  
Finance  
Insurance

Business firms  
Insurance companies  
Banks  
Retail stores  
Marketing research departments or organizations  
Real estate companies

Minor in business.  
Gain related experience through internships or part-time jobs.  
Obtain leadership role(s) in campus organization(s).  
Develop computer skills in word processing, database management, and spreadsheet programs.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Philosophy students develop many transferable skills that can be utilized in a variety of careers and jobs, demonstrating the flexibility and capacity for growth that employers find valuable. These skills include analytical, organizational, research, as well as oral and written communication skills.
- Other related skills that are attractive to employers are idea generation, problem formulation and problem solving, diverse data integration, adaptation to change, the ability to elicit hidden assumptions, persuasion, and summarization of complicated material.
- An undergraduate degree qualifies one for entry-level positions in business, nonprofit organizations, and government.
- Graduate and/or professional studies usually lead to careers in law, medicine, ministry, finance, psychology, counseling, diplomacy, ethics, and related areas.
- Ph.D. is required for college/university teaching and research.
- Concentrations with other areas can include mathematics, religion, science, history, women's studies, Eastern philosophy, and medical or business ethics.
- Develop aptitudes for analytical thinking, logic, and statistics in order to apply philosophy to a broad range of professions such as law, government, finance, management, consulting, and related areas.
- Join related student or professional organizations.
- Seek related summer or part-time work experience or internships in area(s) of interest.
- Take computer courses to increase employment opportunities.

# What can I do with this degree?

## PHYSICS

### Physics Links:

[Professional Science Masters](#)

[Sloan Foundation Careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics](#)

[American Physical Society](#)

[Careers Using Physics](#)

[American Institute of Physics Careers for Physicists](#)

[Physics Jobs Online](#)

[Science Careers](#)

[Careers in Science and Engineering](#)

[PhDs.org](#)

[The American Astronomical Society](#)

[The Scientist's Employment Network](#)

[Science Technicians from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

[Physicists and Astronomers from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

[Teacher-Postsecondary from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

### AREAS

#### ASTRONOMY

Teaching

Research

Writing

### EMPLOYERS

Colleges and universities

Observatories

Planetariums

Science museums

Nonprofit foundations

Industry e.g., aerospace, scientific supply, mass media

Federal government: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Smithsonian

Astrophysical Observatory, U.S. Naval Observatory, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory

## **STRATEGIES**

Acquire excellent verbal and written communication skills. Get involved in a research project.  
Develop a specialty area of expertise and experience.

## **AREAS**

### **ACOUSTICAL PHYSICS**

Basic and Applied Research  
Development  
Teaching  
Consulting  
Administration  
Testing

## **EMPLOYERS**

Colleges and universities  
Government laboratories  
Nonprofit research centers  
Industry e.g., electronics, building design, medical instrumentation, communications, engineering, noise pollution, sound recording, film production

## **STRATEGIES**

Supplement program with courses in psychology, physiology, communications, political science, and sociology. Obtain a graduate degree in physics for opportunities in industry. Maintain an interest in music, the arts and humanities.

## **AREAS**

### **ASTROPHYSICS**

Teaching  
Consulting  
Administration  
Research  
Design  
Astronautics

## **EMPLOYERS**

Government laboratories  
Research centers  
Airports  
Colleges and universities  
Commercial industry  
Space industry  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Observatories  
Planetariums  
Military

## **STRATEGIES**

Obtain experience through part-time or voluntary position in a planetarium, observatory or science museum. Complete an internship with a research organization or related industry. Participate in research with scholars in the field.  
Contact the American Astronomical Society for more information.

## **AREAS**

### **BIOPHYSICS**

Basic and Applied Research  
Development  
Teaching  
Consulting  
Administration

## **EMPLOYERS**

Colleges and universities  
Government laboratories  
Nonprofit research centers  
Industry e.g., biotechnology, environment, pharmaceuticals  
Hospitals

## **STRATEGIES**

Acquire information about state licensure required for various types of technicians working in medical settings. Gain experience as a laboratory assistant or hospital orderly. Volunteer at a hospital or clinic.

## **AREAS**

### **FLUID AND PLASMA PHYSICS**

Basic and Applied Research  
Development  
Teaching  
Consulting  
Administration

## **EMPLOYERS**

Colleges and universities  
Government laboratories  
Government agencies  
Nonprofit research centers  
Industry e.g., automobile, jet engine, space vehicle design, controlled fusion device design

## **STRATEGIES**

Obtain a graduate degree (master's or doctorate) for opportunities in industry or research.

## **AREAS**

### **GEOPHYSICS**

Basic and Applied Research  
Development  
Teaching  
Consulting  
Administration  
Exploration

## **EMPLOYERS**

Colleges and universities  
Nonprofit research centers  
Federal government e.g., Coast and Geological Survey, U.S. Geological Survey, Army Map Service, Naval Oceanographic Office

Industry e.g., petroleum, mining, exploration  
Consulting firms

## **STRATEGIES**

Specialize in geophysics or minor in geology. Develop good background in mathematics, chemistry, engineering, and physics. Maintain good physical condition.

## **AREAS**

### **HEALTH PHYSICS**

Basic and Applied Research  
Development  
Teaching  
Consulting  
Administration  
Monitoring/Inspection

## **EMPLOYERS**

Colleges and universities  
Government laboratories  
Government agencies e.g., Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Public Health Service  
Nonprofit research centers  
Industry e.g., health physics instrumentation, nuclear power, nuclear weapons, radioisotope products, nuclear accelerators, nuclear reactors  
Environmental firms  
Hospitals

## **STRATEGIES**

Earn a Ph.D. and certification by the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) for top university teaching, research and administrative positions. Complete a master's degree and certification by the ABHP for professional health physicists' positions. Specialize in health physics and obtain technician certification from the National Registry of Radiation Protection. Acquire knowledge of government standards and regulations.

## **AREAS**

### **MEDICAL PHYSICS**

Basic and Applied Research  
Development  
Teaching  
Consulting  
Administration

## **EMPLOYERS**

Colleges and universities  
Medical schools  
Hospitals  
Industry e.g., medical instrumentation  
Government laboratories  
Nonprofit research centers  
Government agencies

## **STRATEGIES**

Gain experience working in a hospital. Develop a research specialty in a medical or health related area.

## **AREAS**

### **NUCLEAR PHYSICS**

Basic and Applied Research  
Development  
Teaching  
Consulting  
Administration  
Law  
Quality Control  
Operations and Maintenance

## **EMPLOYERS**

Colleges and universities  
Military  
Industry e.g., nuclear weapons, nuclear accelerators, nuclear reactors, nuclear instrumentation, radioisotope products  
Government laboratories and research centers  
Government agencies e.g., Department of Defense, Department of Energy

## **STRATEGIES**

A master's degree is preferred for positions in industry. Develop excellent laboratory skills. Acquire a strong mathematics and chemistry background.

## **AREAS**

### **OPTICAL PHYSICS**

Basic and Applied Research  
Development  
Teaching  
Consulting  
Administration

## **EMPLOYERS**

Colleges and universities  
Government laboratories  
Nonprofit research centers  
Industry e.g., medical scanners, eyeglasses, binoculars, microscopes, lasers, holography, display technologies, x-ray, ultraviolet spectra, fiber optics  
Federal agencies e.g., NASA, Department of Energy, Department of Defense

## **STRATEGIES**

Obtain a master's degree for positions in industry. Supplement program with courses in electricity, magnetism, quantum mechanics, and electronics.  
Get involved in an independent optics project during senior year.

## **AREAS**

### **SCIENCE EDUCATION**

Teaching  
Computer Software Development

Educational Research  
Writing and Editing  
Library and Information Sciences

### **EMPLOYERS**

Public school systems, K-12  
Private schools, K-12  
Publishing companies: books, magazines, videos  
Software developers  
Libraries

### **STRATEGIES**

Gain experience working with young people through volunteering and tutoring. Work with after school programs and summer camps. Acquire appropriate state teacher certification for K-12 teaching opportunities. Visit schools and observe classrooms. Create a portfolio of science experiments and activities. Become skilled in the use of computers. Earn a graduate degree in information science.

### **AREAS**

#### **TECHNICAL**

Engineering (Process and Testing)  
Quality Control  
Industrial Hygiene  
Design Development  
Technical Writing  
Computer Technology  
Research

### **EMPLOYERS**

Research and development firms  
Mining and petroleum companies  
Hospitals  
Engineering firms  
Professional and technical journals  
Government laboratories  
Manufacturing and processing firms  
Atomic and nuclear labs  
Government agencies e.g., Department of Commerce, Department of Defense  
Television and radio stations  
Weather bureaus

### **STRATEGIES**

Gain experience through internships or co-ops. Complete applicable certification or licensure through professional organizations. Gain knowledge about the field through informational interviews with professionals. Develop work habits that are systematic, precise, and patient. Develop a strong computer background. Gain experience using scientific instruments and equipment. Pursue a graduate degree in engineering.

### **AREAS**

#### **SOLID STATE PHYSICS**

Basic and Applied Research  
Development

Consulting  
Teaching  
Administration

## **EMPLOYERS**

Government laboratories  
Nonprofit research centers  
Colleges and universities  
Electronics industry e.g., communications, automobile, computer, navigation/guidance systems  
Government agencies e.g., National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Department of Defense

## **STRATEGIES**

Obtain experience working with electronics and computers. Request applicable job listings from the American Institute of Physics.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

A bachelor's degree will qualify for positions as research assistants, high level technicians, or computer specialists, as well as nontechnical work in publishing or sales.

An undergraduate degree also provides a solid background for pursuing advanced degrees in other employment areas such as law, business, accounting, or medicine.

Be aware that expertise and experience in a specialty area are usually required for employment opportunities directly related to physics.

A graduate degree and post-graduate experience will allow for more responsibility and advancement in the field of physics.

An earned doctorate is required for college or university teaching, advanced research, and administrative positions.

Some industries such as the manufacturers of electrical devices will train in the specialty of the firm.

A bachelor's degree and state teacher certification are required for K-12 teaching opportunities.

Visit government laboratories or research centers. Talk with a physicist about his/her profession and career path.

Join relevant professional associations. Attend their meetings and read their publications.

Acquire excellent oral and written communication skills.

Gain experience with tools, electronics, and machinery.

Become familiar with government job application process for positions in federal, state, or local government.

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee,  
Knoxville. (2005) UTK is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA Employer