What Can I Do With a Major in **Physics**?

Below is a list of job titles, employers and graduate schools that Harvey Mudd College physics alumni have chosen in the last five years.

### Job Titles
- Activities Worker
- Engineer
- Firmware Engineer
- Patent Agent
- Physical Scientist
- Process Engineer
- Researcher
- Software Developer
- Software Test Engineer
- Support Engineer
- Teacher
- Technical Services Engineer

### Employers
- Applied Operations Research
- Bluefin Bay Resort
- Epic
- Glast, Phillips & Murray PC
- Intel Corporation
- Laserfiche
- Medtronic
- National Institutes of Health
- Northrop Grumman Corporation
- Opto 22
- Parasoft
- Parco Inc.
- Teach Overseas
- zulily
- Zygo Extreme Precision Optics

### Graduate Schools
- California State University, Los Angeles
- Claremont Graduate University
- Cornell University
- Duke University
- Fuller Theological Seminary
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Ohio State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- Syracuse University
- University of Arizona
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of Chicago
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Houston
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Maryland
- University of Michigan
- University of Southern California
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Toronto
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin, Madison

### Starting Salary Summary
- **High Salary Range**
  - $110,000 – $119,999
- **Low Salary Range**
  - >$40,000
- **Median Salary Range**
  - $55,000 – $59,999

### Average Summer Wages
- **First-year**
  - $11.70/hour
- **Sophomore**
  - $13/hour
- **Junior**
  - $31/hour

### Summer Employers
- Cal Tech*
- Georgetown University (REU)
- Google
- National Institute of Standards and Tech (REU)
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Penn State (REU)
- Pololu Electronics*
- Potential Energy*
- Rice University (REU)
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- UC Los Angeles (Applied Math REU)
- UC Davis (Microbiology Research)*
- Ulsan National Institute of Science and Tech (Korea)
- University of Minneapolis (REU)
- ViaSat*
- We Care Solar

*companies that hired for first-year students
Here are just a few areas that may interest a physics major.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Employers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASTROPHYSICS</strong></td>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>Government laboratories (e.g., NASA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consulting</td>
<td>Research centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Airports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Commercial industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Aerospace industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Astronautics</td>
<td>Observatories</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planetariums</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH PHYSICS</strong></td>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and development</td>
<td>Government agencies (e.g., U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>Nonprofit research centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consulting</td>
<td>Nuclear industry (e.g., health physics instrumentation, nuclear power, nuclear weapons, radio-isotope products, nuclear accelerators, nuclear reactors)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Environmental firms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring inspection</td>
<td>Hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TECHNICAL</strong></td>
<td>Research and development firms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering (process and testing)</td>
<td>Mining and petroleum companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality control</td>
<td>Hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrial hygiene</td>
<td>Engineering firms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design development</td>
<td>Professional and technical journals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical writing</td>
<td>Government laboratories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer technology</td>
<td>Manufacturing and processing firms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Atomic and nuclear labs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Government agencies (e.g., U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Defense)</td>
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<td>Television and radio stations</td>
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<td>Weather bureaus</td>
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**What You Can Do Now**
- Gain experience through volunteering, internships and part-time or summer jobs.
- Develop good oral and written communication skills.
- Supplement curriculum with courses in business, economics, computers or statistics for increased job opportunities.
- Build relationships with faculty by conducting research.
- Develop the ability to work well on teams.
- Talk to professionals in areas of interest to enhance knowledge and make contacts.
- Join related student professional associations and

**What You Can Do After Graduation**
- An undergraduate degree is often sufficient for entry-level positions, but an advanced degree may open the door to more upper-level opportunities. Pair a strong background in physics with another technical discipline such as computer science or engineering.
- A master's degree in physics, business or related fields will be helpful for advanced positions or for consulting jobs.
- A PhD is needed for academic positions and certain areas of research.