



# 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, San Diego  
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*



**Student Affairs**  
Office of Career Services

Here are just a few areas that may interest a physics major.

Area	Employers
<b>ASTROPHYSICS</b> Teaching Consulting Administration Research Design Astronautics	Colleges and universities Government laboratories (e.g., NASA) Research centers Airports Commercial industry Aerospace industry Observatories Planetariums Military
<b>HEALTH PHYSICS</b> Research and development Teaching Consulting Administration Monitoring inspection	Colleges and universities Government agencies ( e.g., U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) Nonprofit research centers Nuclear industry (e.g., health physics instrumentation, nuclear power, nuclear weapons, radio-isotope products, nuclear accelerators, nuclear reactors) Environmental firms Hospitals
<b>TECHNICAL</b> Engineering (process and testing) Quality control Industrial hygiene Design development Technical writing Computer technology Research	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., U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Defense) Television and radio stations Weather bureaus

### 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.