

Physics (Applied)

at Coastal Carolina University

What does a physics major study?

Physics is at the core of nature; it is the study of the fundamental forces that drive all observable phenomena. Physicists study systems on length scales from the very large, like the origins of the universe, to the very small, like the particles and interactions that make up the nucleus. The applied physics degree at Coastal Carolina University focuses on the application of this knowledge to particular problems. Student in the applied physics program can study dynamic processes in the ocean and atmosphere, the genesis of galaxies, what happens when stars collide, and molecular interactions important to environmental and energy issues.

Why study physics at Coastal Carolina University?

- Two tracks are available: environmental and traditional. Both of these tracks have a common core of introductory study (General Physics I, II and III with a strong math core) followed by more advanced courses in physics, research and independent study, coupled with applied courses like physical oceanography and/or electronics and computer interfacing.
- Students can easily merge their interest in physics with another subject such as marine science, chemistry, computer science or mathematics through a minor or double major.
- Physics is a good choice of major for students interested in the dual degree engineering program with Clemson University, particularly for students interested in mechanical or civil engineering.
- Students majoring in physics will receive a strong technical background with experience in using computers and in applying physical principles to specific research questions.
- Since research is an integral part of Coastal Carolina University's program, students work closely with faculty to carry out individually-tailored research projects. Students working with University faculty have spent summers in research centers across the country such as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, traveled to meetings to present research, and participated in prestigious programs like the National Council on Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C.

What are some career options for physics majors?

Physicists are involved in all of the following areas/industries:

- Basic research
- Informational technology
- Teaching at all levels
- Technical writing for newspapers, magazines, textbooks and electronic media
- Research in developing new and better technologies
- Materials and instrumentation
- Environmental work
- Patent law

What kind of courses do physics majors take?

PHYS 201 / 202 / 203	General Physics I, II, and III
PHYS 302	Electricity and Magnetism
PHYS 430	Fluid Mechanics
PHYS 303	Quantum Mechanics
PHYS 434	Atmospheric Physics

Whom can I contact for more information?

- Louis Keiner, Ph.D., chair of the department, 843-349-2226 or lkeiner@coastal.edu
- Mary Sue Keasler, administrative assistant, 843-349-2379 or mkeasler@coastal.edu
- You can also obtain more information at www.coastal.edu/science.

**Coastal
Carolina
University**

P.O. Box 261954
Conway, S.C.
29528-6054

1-800-277-7000
www.coastal.edu