



## CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

### Physics

#### **General Departmental Information**

Physics is a fundamental science in the sense that its ultimate goal is to understand and explain the structure of our universe. It is also a practical subject, and physicists continue to participate and contribute in many fields of human endeavor.

The Physics majors at Central emphasize the fundamental and practical nature of physics. Our students pursue the intellectual excitement of beginning to understand the structure of matter itself and the widely applicable experiences of problem solving, quantitative reasoning, and acquiring manipulative skills.

Throughout our majors, stress is placed on careful development of key concepts and skills in a logical sequence, often from a historical perspective. This emphasis is intended to produce the habits of independent study and self improvement essential to success after graduation.

#### **Degrees, Specializations, Minors & Certifications**

The particular major followed by any student will be determined by that student's own career objective. The B.A. major is for students wishing a broad liberal education with an emphasis in physics. The B.S. Physics majors are designed for individuals planning careers in physics and related technical fields or in areas where a knowledge of basic scientific principles is useful. The Physics minor is for students who want an introduction to the ideas of classical and modern physics.

#### **Bachelor of Science, Physics-Engineering Specialization**

This is a joint five-year program leading to a degree from CWU and an Engineering degree from another institution. Completion of the three-year program specified below will generally prepare the student to enter the third and fourth year courses of most engineering curricula, but it is solely the student's responsibility to apply and gain admission to an institution offering degrees in Engineering. Early consultation with Central's pre-engineering advisor is mandatory to ensure that specific additional requirements of particular pre-engineering curricula are also satisfied. After transfer to an accredited engineering program, completion of 26 credits of

upper division engineering courses in that program, completion of Central's basic and breadth requirements, and a minimum total of 180 acceptable credits will satisfy remaining requirements for the B.S. degree at CWU with a major in Physics. It is the individual student's responsibility to submit an official transcript of the work completed after leaving CWU and to request awarding of this degree.

#### **Bachelor of Arts, Physics**

This major satisfies the Primary endorsement for Physics. Students intending to teach at the high school level should obtain adequate preparation in another field – mathematics is particularly recommended since very few high school teaching assignments involve only Physics. The Department of Physics will recommend for certification and endorsement to teach high school physics, those students who complete a Bachelor of Arts degree or a minor in Physics and have taken SCED 324 and PHYS 393. Prospective teachers must also contact the Teacher Preparation Program to determine its requirements.

#### **For Further Information, Contact:**

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400 East University Way  
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Or visit the Physics website:  
<http://www.cwu.edu/~physics/>

CWU official online catalog  
<http://www.cwu.edu/catalogs.html>

[Admissions](#) and [Transfer](#) Requirements

CWU Office of [Admissions](#)  
(866) CWU-4YOU (298-4968)

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