The Applied Physics Track at the WKU Department of Physics and Astronomy leads to a degree of Bachelor of Science in Physics.

Curriculum and internships prepare students for careers in high-tech industries, national laboratories and academy.

Applied Physics students can obtain high-tech jobs immediately after graduation with B.S. degree in Physics.
A major in physics leads to a Bachelor of Science degree. The Applied Physics track prepares students for positions in high-tech industries and national laboratories, and graduate level studies in applied science or engineering disciplines.

The integrated research and educational activities of the program blend together the fundamental and practical aspects of physics. Students combine a solid background in physics with an extensive introduction to applications of physics to solve real-world problems.

Students will take 24 semester hours of the core courses required for Physics majors, and a minimum of 11 semester hours of the upper division courses that concentrate on the high-tech experimental methods and instrumentation (total 35 semester hours). A minor or second major is required.

Support requirements include Mathematics 126, 227, 307, 327, and 331, three semester hours of Computer Science, three semester hours of Biology, and Chemistry 120/121.

WKU has always fostered undergraduate research as one of the major educational elements for our students. The Applied Physics option engages students in applied research, provides hands-on training in industrial laboratory settings where students will apply the knowledge gained from their physics courses.

The program promotes student success and prepares students to be productive citizens. Identifying and integrating contemporary real world issues as part of their learning, students develop awareness of their opportunities as responsible citizens living and working in a global society. Students can actively participate in national and local conferences.

### Internships

Applied Physics students participate in two summer internships. The internships take place during the summer months after the Sophomore and Junior years. Students have the opportunity to work as a paid employee in the high-tech industrial laboratory or at a national laboratory. After each internship, students prepare a report on the research work they completed during each internship and present it to fellow students and faculty members at a seminar. Placement into internship programs is coordinated by the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

**Our internship partners:**
- Electronic Warfare Associates, Inc.
- Northwest Nuclear, LLC
- WKU Applied Physics Institute
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory

### Careers

The graph below depicts typical starting salaries for recipients of Physics B.S. degree in 2003-04. The data were obtained from a statistics database of the American Institute of Physics. Graduates of WKU Applied Physics track are candidates to obtain positions in Private Sector Science & Engineering (S & E*) and Civilian Government.

![Graph showing typical salaries](image-url)