

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN:  
ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS**

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**What Activities Could Astronomy and Astrophysics Majors Do?**

Astronomy is sometimes considered a subfield of physics. Astronomers use the principles of physics and mathematics to learn about the fundamental nature of the universe, including the sun, moon, planets, stars, and galaxies. They also apply their knowledge to solve problems in navigation, space flight, and satellite communications, and to develop the instrumentation and techniques used to observe and collect astronomical data.

Almost all astronomers do research. Some are theoreticians, working on the laws governing the structure and evolution of astronomical objects. Others analyze large quantities of data gathered by observatories and satellites and write scientific papers or reports on their findings. Some astronomers actually operate large space- or ground-based telescopes, usually as part of a team. However, astronomers may spend only a few weeks each year making observations with optical telescopes, radio telescopes, and other instruments. For many years, satellites and other space-based instruments, such as the Hubble space telescope, have provided prodigious amounts of astronomical data. New technology resulting in improvements in analytical techniques and instruments, such as computers and optical telescopes and mounts, is leading to a resurgence in ground-based research. A small number of astronomers work in museums housing planetariums. These astronomers develop and revise programs presented to the public and may direct planetarium operations.

**What Industries Could Astronomy and Astrophysics Majors Explore?**

Institutes Government	Research and Development Planetariums	Museums Teaching	Universities Military
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**What Employers Hire Astronomy and Astrophysics Majors?**

NASA SAIC Akiom Trium	Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Space Telescope Science Institute MIT Lincoln Laboratory Lawrence Livermore National Lab	University of Arizona The Aerospace Corporation Emerson Network Power Fish & Richardson, P.C.	3M Honeywell Alliant Techsystems HDR
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**What Are Some Full-Time Job Titles for Astronomy and Astrophysics Majors?**

Astronomer Astrophysicist Project Manager Data Analyst	Product Designer Project Scientist Telescope Engineer Laboratory Scientist	Research Specialist Scientist Support Astronomer Physicist	Assistant Professor Director Research Assistant Teacher
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**What Are Some Useful Websites for Astronomy and Astrophysics Majors?**

Astronomy Magazine	<a href="http://www.astronomy.com">www.astronomy.com</a>
The Astronomy Net	<a href="http://www.astronomy.net">www.astronomy.net</a>
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	<a href="http://www.nasa.gov">www.nasa.gov</a>
National Optical Astronomy Observatory	<a href="http://www.noao.edu">www.noao.edu</a>
Physics and Astronomy Online	<a href="http://www.physlink.com">www.physlink.com</a>
Space Jobs	<a href="http://www.spacejobs.com">www.spacejobs.com</a>

Information on this page was compiled from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, the Encyclopedia of Careers and Vocational Guidance, University of Minnesota departmental websites, and student-reported data.

