As a leader in observational and theoretical research, the astronomy and astrophysics program conducts doctoral research on topics ranging from our solar system to the universe. We offer state-of-the-art facilities for students to discover new planets, explore cosmology, design and build space-flight hardware, and engineer instruments for telescopes and satellites.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Astrophysics

The PhD program in astrophysics is designed to develop creative scholarship and prepare students for professional careers in astrophysics, astronomy or related fields.

At a Glance

- College/School: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Location: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

Required Core (1 credit hour)
SES 502 Exploring SESE Research (1)

Electives or Research (51 credit hours)

Other Requirements (20 credit hours)*
AST 521 Stars and Interstellar Medium I (3)
AST 522 Stars and Interstellar Medium II (3)
AST 523 Stars and Interstellar Medium III (3)
AST 531 Galaxies and Cosmology I (3)
AST 532 Galaxies and Cosmology II (3)
AST 533 Galaxies and Cosmology III (3)
AST 591: Seminar: Topic (1)
SES 501: SESE Colloquium (1)

Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)
SES 799 Dissertation (12)

Additional Curriculum Information
When approved by the student's supervisory committee and the Graduate College, this program allows 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree in a related field to be used for this degree.

*Substitutions for Other Requirements may be made per departmental approval.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admissions application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. scores on the general GRE
5. scores on the physics GRE
6. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency
Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines.

Application Deadlines

Fall

Spring

Contact Information

School of Earth and Space Exploration | ISTB4 795
sse-grad@asu.edu | 480-965-5081
Admission Deadlines