Earth and Space Exploration (Astrophysics), BS

Do you want to be at the edge of exploration, making new discoveries about our planet, our solar system and our universe? As an astrophysics major, you could be discovering new planets, exploring cosmology, designing and building space-flight hardware, and engineering new instruments for telescopes and satellites.

Program Description

The BS program in earth and space exploration with a concentration in astrophysics is designed to offer students a fundamental grounding in astronomy and astrophysics, with exposure to the related fields of geology, planetary science and engineering.

Students of the astrophysics major develop a background in theoretical modeling and observational techniques of galactic and stellar astronomy, extragalactic astronomy and cosmology. They learn to think critically about scientific problems by reducing the complexity to more tractable components.

The rigorous and quantitative coursework includes a combination of physics courses taught in the ASU School of Earth and Space Exploration and the Department of Physics. The tools of astronomical discovery are increasingly dependent on technological advances, and students are exposed to engineering principles and computer programming. Through the capstone project in the senior year, students gain valuable experience in translating science drivers into engineering solutions.

Students currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in earth and space exploration (astrophysics) may not pursue a concurrent degree with the BA in earth and environmental studies, the Bachelor of Science in earth and space exploration, the Bachelor of Science in earth and space exploration (astrobiology and biogesciences), the Bachelor of Science in earth and space exploration (exploration systems design), or the Bachelor of Science in earth and space exploration (geological sciences) due to the high level of overlap in curriculum. Students should speak with their academic advisor for any further questions.
At a Glance

- **College/School:** [The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)
- **Location:** Tempe campus
- **Additional Program Fee:** Yes
- **Second Language Requirement:** No
- **First Required Math Course:** MAT 270 - Calculus w/Analytic Geometry I
- **Math Intensity:** Substantial

Required Courses (Major Map)

2021 - 2022 Major Map
Major Map (Archives)

Admission Requirements

**General University Admission Requirements:**
All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

Freshman | Transfer | International | Readmission

Change of Major Requirements

A current ASU student has no additional requirements for changing majors.

Students should refer to [https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu](https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu) for information about how to change a major to this program.

Transfer Options

ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use MyPath2ASU™ to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has transfer partnerships in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and help students save time and money in their college journey. Students may learn more about these programs by visiting the admission site: [https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs](https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs).

Global Opportunities
Global Experience
Space exploration is an international endeavor, and an international experience provides students opportunities for cross-cultural engagement and improving language and communication skills. Study abroad allows students to take relevant classes while living in another country. Students majoring in earth and space exploration can choose from nearly all of the 250 programs offered to supplement their ASU experience, whether it’s stargazing in the desert or researching in Switzerland.  
https://goglobal.asu.edu/

Career Opportunities
Graduates possess the skills required for a career in astrophysics, physics and related fields. They also are prepared to pursue graduate school in astrophysics or to perform laboratory research or data-intensive analyses that enable scientific progress or inform public policy.

Career opportunities include but are not limited to:

- aerospace engineer
- astrobiologist
- astronomer
- computer programmer
- data analyst
- instrumentation specialist
- planetary scientist
- science policy intern
- science writer
- teacher
- telescope operator

Career settings include:

- federal government
- K-12 schools
- manufacturing
- museums
- NASA facilities
- national laboratories
- NSF facilities
- observatories
- planetariums
- publishing
- space industries
- universities and colleges
Some of the listed careers may require advanced degrees or additional certifications.

Career examples include but are not limited to those shown in the following list. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>*Growth</th>
<th>*Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace Engineer</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>$118,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astronomer</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>$119,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Engineering Professor</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>$103,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Manager</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>$149,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geology Professor</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>$94,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences Manager</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>$137,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physicist</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>$129,850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

🌟 Bright Outlook 🌿 Green Occupation

Contact Information

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