MAJOR TO CAREER GUIDE
B.S. Physics with an Applied Physics Concentration
College of Sciences

Mission of the College of Sciences
The College of Sciences offers programs in life sciences, chemistry, geoscience, mathematical sciences, physics and astronomy, and water management. The college has created a well-rounded curriculum by combining practical and empirical knowledge with scientific fundamentals and principles, which provides a solid foundation for a successful career in the sciences and other professional programs. The student-faculty relationship, hands-on research, and community service help ensure that students who graduate are prepared for whatever path they choose.

www.unlv.edu/sciences

About the Applied Physics Career
Applied physics is a general term for physics which is intended for a particular technological or practical use. It is usually considered as a bridge or a connection between "pure" physics and engineering. "Applied" is distinguished from "pure" by a subtle combination of factors such as the motivation and attitude of researchers and the nature of the relationship to the technology or science that may be affected by the work. It usually differs from engineering in that an applied physicist may not be designing something in particular, but rather is using physics or conducting physics research with the aim of developing new technologies or solving an engineering problem.

Value of an Applied Physics Major
Physics majors have a reputation for solid mathematical skills, strong problem solving ability, and good work ethic. It is these fundamental skills that allow them to work successfully in so many different areas. The starting salaries for physics bachelor's degrees are very competitive, and comparable to other fields of science and engineering, with private sector salaries. Unemployment rates among students with physics bachelor's degrees are very low. Some physics majors go on to medical school or law school and the following tables demonstrate that these students do exceptionally well on the MCAT and LSAT exams.

Applied Physics Career Options
- Nuclear Physics*
- Geophysics*
- Atomic, molecular, optics physics*
- Astronomy*
- Astrophysics*
- Space Physics*
- Physics Education (depending on grade level*)
- Engineering Physics (requires masters in Engineering)*
- Computer Science*
- Government research

UNLV Student Organizations: Physics

UNLV Society of Physics Students
https://sites.google.com/site/unlvspss/
Sigma Pi Sigma (SPS)
http://www.sigmapisigma.org/

Websites for Professional physics organizations:

American Physical Society
http://aps.org/
American Association of Physics Teachers
http://aapt.org/
American Astronomical Society
http://aas.org/
American Institute of Physics
http://www.aip.org/

UNLV Academic Advising for Science Majors:
Academic Advisors who are eager to meet with students about their academic goals and to assist in constructing a plan for graduation. Advisors can also help students understand how their experiences at UNLV can lead to a career in their desired field.

College of Sciences Advising Center
Phone: 702-895-2077
Campus Location: MPE-A 130
http://www.unlv.edu/sciences/advising

Graduate Program: Physics M.S. and PhD
Our department offers both the masters and doctoral degree in physics; both degrees require a research thesis. Before considering our physics department as a possible place to pursue an advanced degree, it is best to explore our faculty’s research interests located on the Physics and Astronomy Home Page overlap with your interests.

http://physics.unlv.edu/jobs.html
Helpful Career Information

Visit the Career Occupational Handbook to learn more about a specific occupation:

http://www.bls.gov/ooh/

The OCH covers hundreds of occupations and describes: What They Do, Work Environment, How to Become One, Pay, and more. Each profile also includes BLS employment projections for the 2010–20 decade.

Career Exploration/Planning

FOCUS 2: UNLV’s computerized assessment that profiles your interests, abilities, and values and helps you find a career that’s right for you.

http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessment.html

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI): Assessment designed to identify how you are energized, how you take in information, how you make decisions, and how you approach life.

http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentMBTI.html

Strong Interest Inventory: Generates an in-depth assessment of your interests among a broad range of occupations, work and leisure activities, and educational subjects.

http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentStrong.html

UNLV Career Services

Career Services encourages ALL UNLV students to take advantage of their services, which include:

• Assistance with developing a career plan and choosing a major
• Career counseling and guidance on building a RESUME
• Preparing for an interview, assistance with job searching and networking.

Phone: 702-895-3495
Campus Location: SSC-A 2nd Floor
http://hire.unlv.edu/

Internship Opportunities

UNLV’s Hire a Rebel is a free, online recruiting system that helps students, alumni, and employers connect in a variety of ways.

Students can use Hire a Rebel to search for: job and internship listings, on-campus recruiting interviews, employer information sessions, resume book database, & dates for career fairs.

http://hire.unlv.edu/careerLink.html

AVERAGE SALARIES BY DISCIPLINE
2010-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>Salary Range</th>
<th>Average Salary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physicist</td>
<td>$49,979 - $139,451</td>
<td>$91,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theoretical Physicist</td>
<td>$46,122 - $123,963</td>
<td>$76,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Physicist</td>
<td>$73,759 - $189,274</td>
<td>$122,800</td>
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www.payscale.com