Physics

college to career major map

Career Development Center

	1ST YEAR	2ND YEAR	3RD YEAR	4TH OR FINAL YEAR
Academics	Start taking LASC coursework as well as foundation and core **Physics** courses. Need a little help in your classes? **Look into tutoring with the Academic Support Center**.	Take a deeper dive into the discipline of **Physics** and begin considering an emphasis in business or pre-health and biochemistry. **Schedule an appointment with a Career Coach** to discuss how to connect your academics to your future career.	Schedule an appointment with your Academic Advisor to ensure you're on track for graduation. Take inventory of your professional goals and decide if your future will need to include graduate school. Take the necessary exams and begin submitting applications to programs that will help you achieve your goals.	Participate in the **Student Academic Conference** to showcase research, connect with employers, and to boost your resume. Ensure you submit your application for graduation on time.
Get Relevant Experience	Join a major or interest-specific **student organization** such as the **Society of Physics Students**. Participate in **Student Life Pathways** to continue growing your skills/knowledge outside of the classroom. We recommend starting with the Community Life Pathway.	Find an on-campus job or a part-time position in the community. Visit **DragonJobs powered by Handshake,** or one of the many other online job boards to find opportunities. Continue working on your **Student Life Pathways**. Try working your way through the Personal Wellness and the Equity and Inclusion paths.	Begin your leadership journey by applying for a student leadership position or run for an officer position in a student organization. During your third year, we suggest focusing on the **Professional Success and Contribution and Influence Student Life Pathways**. These will help connect you to potential employers and develop skills necessary for success post-graduation.	Assess what experiences or skills are areas of growth for you and fill in gaps with volunteering, organizations, internships, or part-time employment. Finish up your pathways and be sure to add your accomplishments to your LinkedIn and resume.
Connect to the Community & World	Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations. Begin to look into research opportunities including undergraduate research alongside faculty members, or through the **National Science Foundation**.	Join **LinkedIn** to begin building your professional network and online presence. Think of your profile as a virtual resume and make sure to update it regularly to reflect new jobs, research, coursework, volunteering, involvement, and skills.	Attend or present at various conferences at the local, regional, and/or national levels. Some conferences include the **American Astronomical Society**, **Minnesota Conference on Science Education**, **Great Lakes Planetarium Association**, and the **Gordon Research Conference**.	Join professional organizations such as the **American Chemistry Council** to gain access to research, continuing education opportunities, job boards, and message boards. Make sure to join prior to graduation to receive the discounted student rate (when applicable).
Understand Your Career	Explore your interests, skills, and values and learn about the career readiness competencies by taking the **FOCUS 2**, an online assessment free for all MSUM students. Schedule an appointment with the **Career Development Center** to review your FOCUS 2 results and to begin building your resume.	Start researching potential career paths on **O*Net**. Here, you will be able to find valuable information such as typical tasks associated with the profession, skills, and knowledge needed, education and licensures needed, wages and employment trends, professional organizations, and related occupations. We suggest you search for careers such as **Materials Engineer**.	**Attend professional development-related events** on-campus, and connect with faculty to learn more about the field and gain insights on how to be successful in your job search. Find an internship or part-time job with a local or regional company or organization to learn the ins and outs of your chosen career. Prepare for the application & interview process by working with the **Career Development Center**.	Network relentlessly! Attend the spring Career Fairs to get connected to employers looking to hire soon-to-be grads. Check **DragonCentral** for more information. **Schedule appointments with a Career Coach** to go over your professional documents and to prepare for upcoming interviews. Remember, once a dragon always a dragon. You have access to these services for life.

Where can you go?

A degree in **Physics** can take your career in many directions. Most students choose to enter the workforce right after graduation while some choose to continue their education. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for a career as a(n):

- Aerospace Engineer
- Analyst
- Astronomer
- Astrophysicist
- Computer Programmer
- Educator
- Medical Physicist
- Optical Engineer
- Physicist
- Product Engineer
- Quality Engineer
- Software Engineer

What skills will you need?

To be successful in the world of **Physics** you will need the following skills:

- Analytical
- Math
- Problem-Solving
- Speaking
- Writing

Thankfully, through your coursework, on-campus involvement, part-time employment and/or internships, and other self-guided learning, you will be prepared for life post-graduation.

*This page is interactive. Click on the **color-coded** phrases to be taken to a correlating website.*

This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Schedule an appointment with a Career Coach to discuss your individual goals and to create a personalized map.