

ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The minor in Astronomy and Astrophysics, available at the University Park campus, provides educational options to students with interest in astronomy but with principal commitments to an allied field. It is designed principally for majors in Aerospace Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Engineering Sciences, Geosciences, Meteorology, and Physics. The educational objectives are to provide students with a profound understanding of the large-scale properties and processes in our Universe including planets and solar systems, our Sun and other stars, our Galaxy and other galaxies; and cosmology. Students in the minor survey the field in the 200-level sequence and then select from a choice of advanced astronomy and allied courses. Minors will be encouraged to take advantage of the many undergraduate research opportunities in the department, often using space-based observatories.

What is Astronomy and Astrophysics?

Astronomy and Astrophysics is the study of the fundamental problems of the nature and evolution of our Universe. Astronomy and Astrophysics includes topics ranging from the most distant and powerful objects in the universe, quasars and gamma ray bursts, to the origins of chemical elements in stars, to planets, both in our solar system and in orbit around other stars.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You enjoy applying the ideas of physics to the study of complex systems and phenomena found beyond the Earth.
- You want to study the answers to big questions relating to astronomy, such as 'how was the universe created?' and 'how likely is it that life exists outside the Earth?'
- You enjoy writing computer software to solve problems.
- You are interested in a minor astronomy and astrophysics to complement your major.