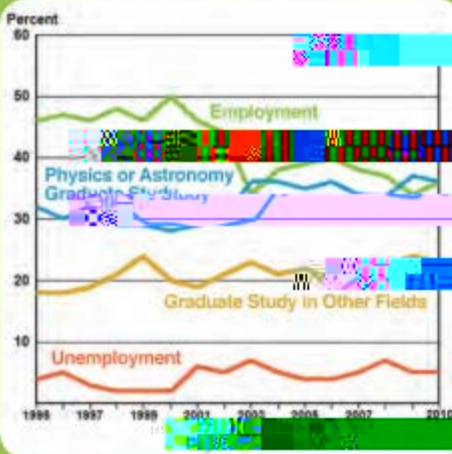


# [what happens after the physics bachelors' degree]

About 40% of graduates go directly into the workforce. Of these, more than half go into the private sector, and nearly three-fourths of those in the private sector go into STEM positions (Natural Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).  
[www.aip.org/statistics](http://www.aip.org/statistics)

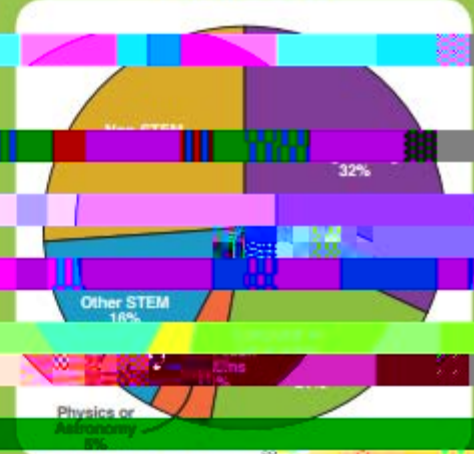
Trends in Status One Year After Earning a Physics Bachelor's, Classes 1995-2010



Initial Employment Sectors of Physics Bachelor's Classes of 2009 & 2010 Combined



Field of Employment for Physics Bachelor's in the Private Sector



STEM refers to Natural Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

# [what a physics bachelor's degree qualifies graduates to do]

Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are the hallmarks of a physics bachelor's degree. From solving difficult theoretical constructs to collecting and analyzing data, physics majors are prepared for a wide range of professional settings. Physics bachelor's degree recipients commonly find employment in four broad areas:

- Engineering
- Computer Hardware and Software
- Research and Technical
- Education

## [challenges]

- Although there are many jobs for physics bachelor's degree recipients, very few have the word "physics" in the title
- Hiring professionals may not understand what a physics student actually knows or is capable of doing
- Faculty may not understand what a physics student actually knows or is capable of doing outside of working in academia
- Students may lack self-awareness of or have difficulty articulating their strengths and capabilities
- Underdeveloped interpersonal communication skills may be a barrier to students in the job search

Encourage students to speak in terms of their own experiences in the course, lab, and internships to effectively communicate their ability to do the work advertised by an employer. The following skills are developed during the typical undergraduate physics experience:

- Critical thinking
- Inventiveness and ability to address unforeseen problems
- Research and investigation
- Communication, both technical writing and verbal
- Working as a member of a team
- Mechanical aptitude
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Advanced mathematics
- Computer programming, modeling and simulations
- Experience with sophisticated equipment

## [common job titles for physics bachelor's degree job seekers]

2010, conducted by the American Institute of Physics Statistical Research Center. They are not exhaustive or exclusive.

### Computer Hardware & Software

- Analyst
- IT Consultant
- Programmer
- Software Engineer
- Systems Analyst
- Technical Support Staff
- Web Developer

### Engineering

- Application Engineer
- Associate Engineer
- Design Engineer
- Development Engineer
- Electrical Engineer
- Engineering
- Field Engineer
- General Engineer

### Product Engineer

- Product Engineer
- Research Engineer
- Systems Engineer
- Test Engineer

### Education

- High School Physics Teacher
- High School Science Teacher
- Middle School Science Teacher

- Manufacturing Engineer
- Manufact
- Mechanical Engineer
- Optical Engineer
- Process Engineer
- Process Technician

### Research & Technical

- Lab Assistant
- Physical Sciences Technician
- Research Assistant
- Research Associate
- Research Technician

## [where to find internships and job opportunities]

There are many online job databases with robust search options that feature many opportunities for physics graduates. On these sites, search posted positions by job titles, key words, and industries, not just the term "physics," as many bachelor's-level jobs appropriate for physics students do not contain the word "physics." Below are some recommended databases:

### SPS Jobs

<http://jobs.sps.org>

### USAJobs

<http://www.usajobs.gov>

### Science Careers

<http://jobs.sciencecareers.org>

### Dice.com

<http://www.dice.com>

### Indeed.com

<http://www.indeed.com>

### LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/job/home>

## [resume writing tips for the physics undergrad]

- Writing a skills-based resume may be the best option
- Focus on skills and practical experience
- Translate transferrable skill sets for the nontechnical reader
- Write a summary of technical qualifications
- Only highlight coursework to demonstrate knowledge of a topic
- Include GPA, overall or major
- Highlighting strong technical skills can be especially important, including experience with:
  - Lab equipment (mention expertise level)
  - MatLab, LabView, or similar analytical/instrument control software
  - Programming languages (C++, SQL), technologies, and tools