PHYSICS TRENDS

What Do Physics Bachelors Do?

Trend in initial outcomes of physics bachelors, classes of 1995 - 2003


Statistical Research Center
www.aip.org/statistics
Rating of Skills Learned

Ratings of Physics Bachelors’ Education 5 – 8 years after degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Percentage &quot;Very Good&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientific problem solving</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math skills</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing skills</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team work skills</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral communication skills</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer programming</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These data reflect the percentage who chose 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale where 5 is excellent. Based on physics bachelors with no additional degrees who are not primary students.

Source: AIP Research Center, 1998-99 Bachelors Plus Five Study

Statistical Research Center
www.aip.org/statistics
Post Bachelor Education

Highest degree obtained by physics bachelors, 5 – 8 years after degree

- No Additional Degrees: 34%
- Earned a Masters: 25%
- Primarily Students: 24%
- Earned a PhD: 12%
- Earned Other Degrees: 5%

Source: AIP Research Center, 1998-99 Bachelors Plus Five Study

Statistical Research Center
www.aip.org/statistics
Initial Employment of Physics Bachelors

Percent of new physics bachelors who took positions unrelated to science and engineering

# Employment of Physics Bachelors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Job</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Software</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Lab Technician</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management, Owner &amp; Finance</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Military</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service and Other Non-Technical</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type of employment of physics bachelors with no additional degrees 5 to 8 years after earning their degrees, 1999.

Source: 1998-99 Bachelors Plus Five Study

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[Statistical Research Center](www.aip.org/statistics)
What’s Important?

Importance of knowledge and skills for physics bachelors, 5 – 7 years after degree

1. Scientific problem solving
2. Synthesizing information
3. Mathematical skills
4. Physics principles
5. Lab or instrumentation skills
6. Scientific software
7. Knowledge of physics
8. Modeling or simulation
9. Product design
10. Computer programming
11. Software development

Source: 1998-99 Bachelors Plus Five Study

Percentage of physics bachelors who chose 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale where 5 = essential.

Source: 1998-99 Bachelors Plus Five Study
Typical Starting Salaries for Physics Bachelors, Classes of 2002 & 2003

Typical salaries are the middle 50%, i.e. between the 25th and 75th percentiles.
S&E refers to positions in science and engineering related employment.


www.aip.org/statistics
Where Do Physics Masters Go?
US Citizens Only

Career paths of physics masters 6 months after receiving their degrees


Statistical Research Center
www.aip.org/statistics
Typical Starting Salaries for Physics Masters, Classes of 2002 & 2003

Note: Typical salaries are the middle 50%, i.e. between the 25th and 75th percentiles. There were too few respondents in the categories of Active Military, High School and Civilian Government to accurately report salaries.

How Long Does It Take to Get a Physics PhD?

The number of full time equivalent years of graduate study completed by the PhD class of 2002 & 2003.

* US Citizens Only

What to Physics PhDs Do?

Initial employment of physics PhDs, 1979-2003.

*In 1991, the survey questionnaire was changed to measure "other temporary" employment as a separate category.

Typical Starting Salaries of Physics PhDs, Classes of 2002 & 2003

Typical salaries are the middle 50%, i.e., between the 25th and 75th percentiles. FFR&DC: Federally Funded Research and Development Center, e.g., Los Alamos. *University includes University Affiliated Research Institutes.