

## CAREERS FOR

# Physics & Astrophysics

## MAJORS

Physics is the study of the interactions of matter and energy, the fundamental laws of our universe. Undergraduate study in Physics and Astrophysics provides a rigorous scientific foundation highly relevant to careers in science and technology. Physics and Astrophysics graduates' skills are in demand in private industry sectors including advanced manufacturing, aerospace technology, and renewable energy. Graduates skills are also valued in the public sector, especially at the federal government level in national research laboratories and national security agencies. Graduates may also use their training in research and critical thinking to study and work in other fields, like law and policy. [The Department of Physics and Astronomy](#) offers several degree paths:

- B.S. in Physics, with concentrations available in Optics, Biophysics, and Earth and Planetary Sciences
- B.S. in Astrophysics
- B.A. in Physics and Astrophysics

Students interested in scientific research and graduate study in physics and related disciplines should choose a B.S. degree. Many careers in physics and astronomy require an advanced degree (M.S. or PhD). Students should take advantage of cutting-edge research opportunities in institutes housed in or affiliated with the Department:

- [Center for Quantum Information and Control](#)
- [New Mexico Center for Particle Physics](#)
- [Center for High Technology Materials](#)
- [New Mexico Center for the Spatiotemporal Modeling of Cell Signaling](#)

## Industries & Occupations

### Industry & Technology

- Natural sciences manager, research & development manager, data scientist, software engineer, production & manufacturing, aerospace, optics, renewable energy, healthcare

### Science & Education

- Physicist, astronomer, astrophysicist, research scientist, lab technician, university faculty, museums and planetariums, secondary science and math education

### Government

- Federal and state agencies in national security, military technology, aerospace, energy, and intelligence

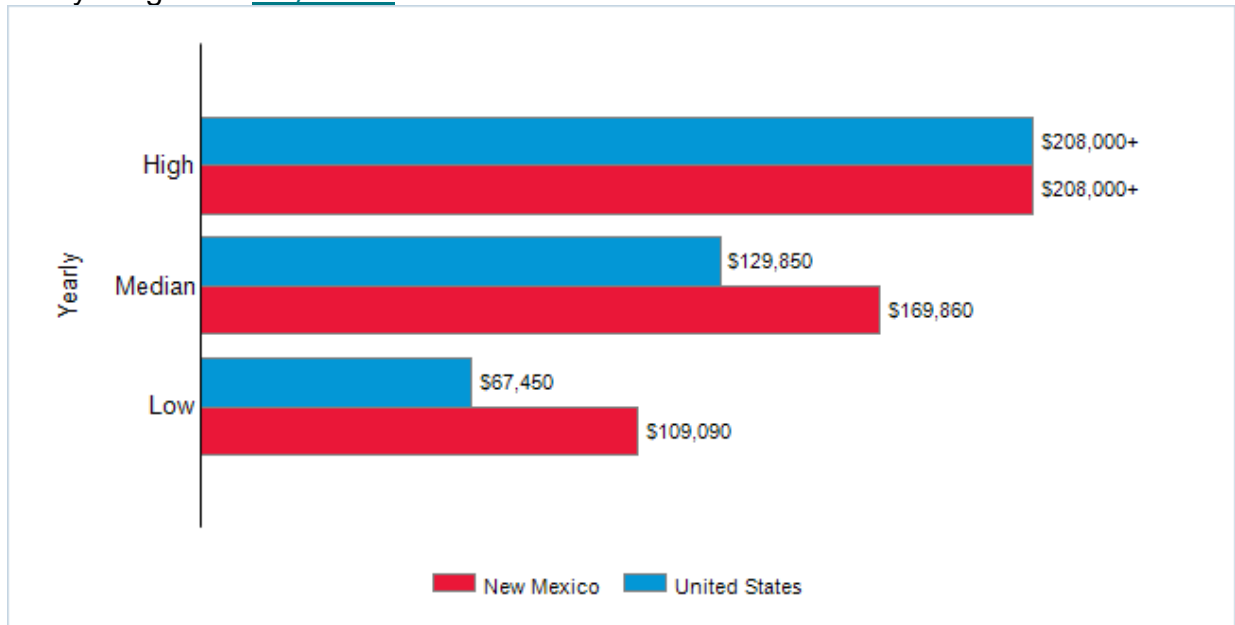
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### Employment & Internship Opportunities

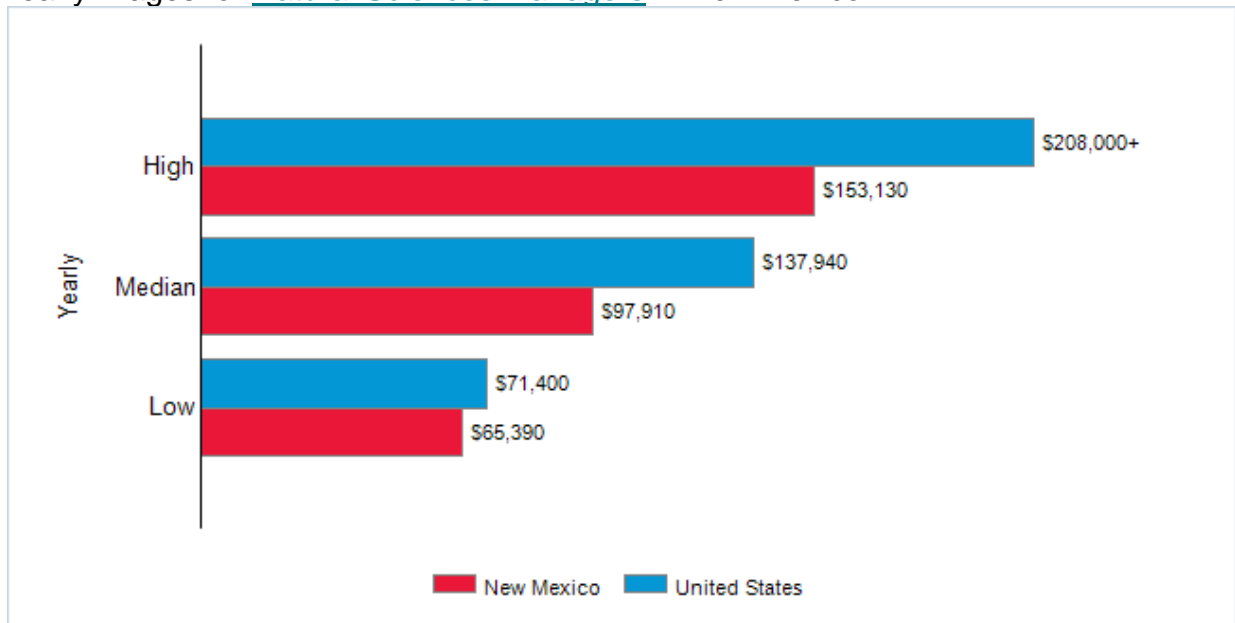
NASA, Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Air Force Research Labs, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Defense, New Mexico Spaceport Authority, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque Public Schools

### Salary Information

Yearly Wages for [Physicists](#) in New Mexico



Yearly Wages for [Natural Sciences Managers](#) in New Mexico



## Tips

- Research experience is crucial for many careers in physics and astrophysics. Speak to faculty members about research opportunities in the department.
- Interested in working for the federal government? Special programs for [students and recent grads](#) are a great way to get started.
- Consider pursuing a [postbaccalaureate research program](#) to get further experience before entering graduate school or the job market.

## Learn More

### Professional Associations

- [American Physical Society](#)
- [American Institute of Physics](#)
- [American Association of Physicists in Medicine](#)
- [International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine](#)
- [American Astronomical Society](#)
- [International Astronomical Union](#)
- [American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics](#)
- [Universities Space Research Association](#)

### Other Resources

- [Handshake](#)
- [O\\*NET](#)
  - [Physicists](#)
  - [Astronomers](#)
  - [Natural Sciences Managers](#)
  - [Data Scientists](#)
- [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)
  - [Physicists and Astronomers](#)
  - [Natural Sciences Managers](#)
  - [High School Teachers](#)
- [Student Activities Center](#)
- [Buzzfile Employers by Major](#)