Welcome to Physics & Astronomy at York.

As a Physics major you can do X, where X is what you want to do. You can do Physics. You can do Astronomy. You can Educate. You can Innovate. And you can start it all at York.

York offers three-year Bachelor of Science (BSc) degrees in Physics and in Astronomy and four-year Honours and Specialized Honours BSc degrees in Physics, Applied Physics, Astronomy, Space Science, and Biophysics.

Our students go on to graduate school and employment across North America and beyond.

Current Positions of Some Former York Physics Undergraduate Students

Anand Menon, IT Architect, Celestica Inc.
Fadi Yachoua, Attorney, Embarkation Law Group
Patricia Royle, Senior Program Coordinator, Space Telescope Science Institute
Alexandre Fong, Senior Vice-President, Life Sciences & Instrumentation, Gooch & Housego
Lianne Manzer, Associate Data Scientist, RBC Wealth Management
Matthew Lightman, Data Scientist, JP Morgan Chase
Brian Pogue, Professor of Physics & Astronomy and former Dean of Graduate Studies, Dartmouth College
Kevin Shortt, Scientist, Optical Communications Group, DLR (the German NASA)
Julie Tomé, Science Educator, Royal Ontario Museum
William Dykshoorn, Teacher, Bayview Secondary
Brigette Hesman, Assistant Research Scientist: “I am based at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center where I run Saturn spacecraft operations for Cassini’s Composite Infrared Spectrometer ….”
Cody Storry, Associate Professor, York University Department of Physics and Astronomy

Other York Physics Alumni of Note

Steve McLean
Alumni:
Steve McLean
Astronaut, Executive, Professor

Degrees:
BSc ’77 (Physics), PhD ’83 (Physics), DSc ’93
Steve McLean (BSc ’77, PhD ’83, DSc ’93) has gone to greater heights than any other alumnus to date—literally! An astronaut and influential member of the Canadian space community, Dr. McLean began his incredible journey right here at York.

Ilana Dashovsky
Alumni:
Ilana Dashovsky
Hubble Space Telescope Software Systems Engineer

Degrees:
BSc ’97 (Physics & Astronomy)
Ilana Dashovsky (BSc ’97) never imagined that her love of astronomy would lead her to a career that included writing software commands for the iconic Hubble Space Telescope, but a York University degree helped get her there.

Questions? Contact Prof. Patrick Hall, phasupd@yorku.ca

Nigel Lockyer
Alumni:
Nigel Lockyer
Director, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

Degrees:
BSc Spec. Honors ’75 (Physics)
Dr. Nigel Lockyer (BSc Spec. Honors ’75) is a leading voice in the field of high-energy particle physics. He’s been named director of two of the most prestigious scientific research facilities in North America—and this successful scientific career was launched right here, in York’s Department of Physics & Astronomy. After graduating from York in 1975 with his Bachelor of Science degree in physics, Nigel completed his PhD in physics from Ohio State University. He then took up a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, which is operated by California’s Stanford University and engages in experimental and theoretical research in elementary particle physics. He returned to the classroom in 1984.
Skills You Will Build As A Physics Major at York

Analysis and quantitative thinking * Communicating complex ideas
* Problem solving * Working with laboratory instruments *
Conducting research * Working in teams * Technical writing *
Critical thinking * Proficiency with computer hardware & software

Did You Know?

Other Degrees of Some Former York Physics Undergraduates

Elena Brief, Ph.D. (Physics)
Alexandre Fong, M.B.A.
Stephan Roess, Chartered Insurance Professional
Jason Marshall, B.Ed.
Lianne Manzer, M.Sc.
(Astronomy)
Ian Harnarine, M.F.A.
Sarah Sadavoy, M.Sc. and Ph.D.
(Astronomy)
Jennifer Roberts, M.Ed.
Fadi Yachoua, LL.B., LL.L.
(Common & Civil Law)
Cody Storry, Ph.D. (Physics)

Employment of Physics Majors

Physics majors achieve some of the highest average scores on the MCAT exam (for medical school) and the LSAT exam (for law school). Source: www.aip.org

Some Jobs Held By Former York Physics Undergraduates

Engineering Manager, Professor, High School Teacher, Senior Application Architect,
Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Vice President, Geophysicist, Research Scholar,
Enterprise Architect, Insurance Broker, CEO, Astronaut, Technical Support Specialist,
Marketing Manager, Medical Physicist, Teacher, Business Systems Analyst,
Immigration Lawyer, Director of Global Marketing, Science Educator, Optical Communications Scientist, Filmmaker, Data Scientist, Senior Program Coordinator or Software Systems Engineer (for the Hubble Space Telescope), Director of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, President of the Canadian Space Agency…