

# Welcome!

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## Admitted Student Day



University of Colorado **Boulder**





# Admitted Student Day

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## Parking validation

1. Scan QR code
2. Enter license plate # (no dashes)
3. Enter state of license plate
4. Click “Next”
5. Enter email
6. Click “Next”
7. Enter code: **ASD2026**
8. Click “PARK”



**SCAN HERE FOR PARKING VALIDATION**

# Admitted Student Day

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## Download the Yapp App

Streamline your Admitted Student Day experience with quick and easy access to the agenda, a personalized schedule builder, campus map, social media, recommendations and more!



**SCAN THE QR CODE AND CLICK DOWNLOAD**

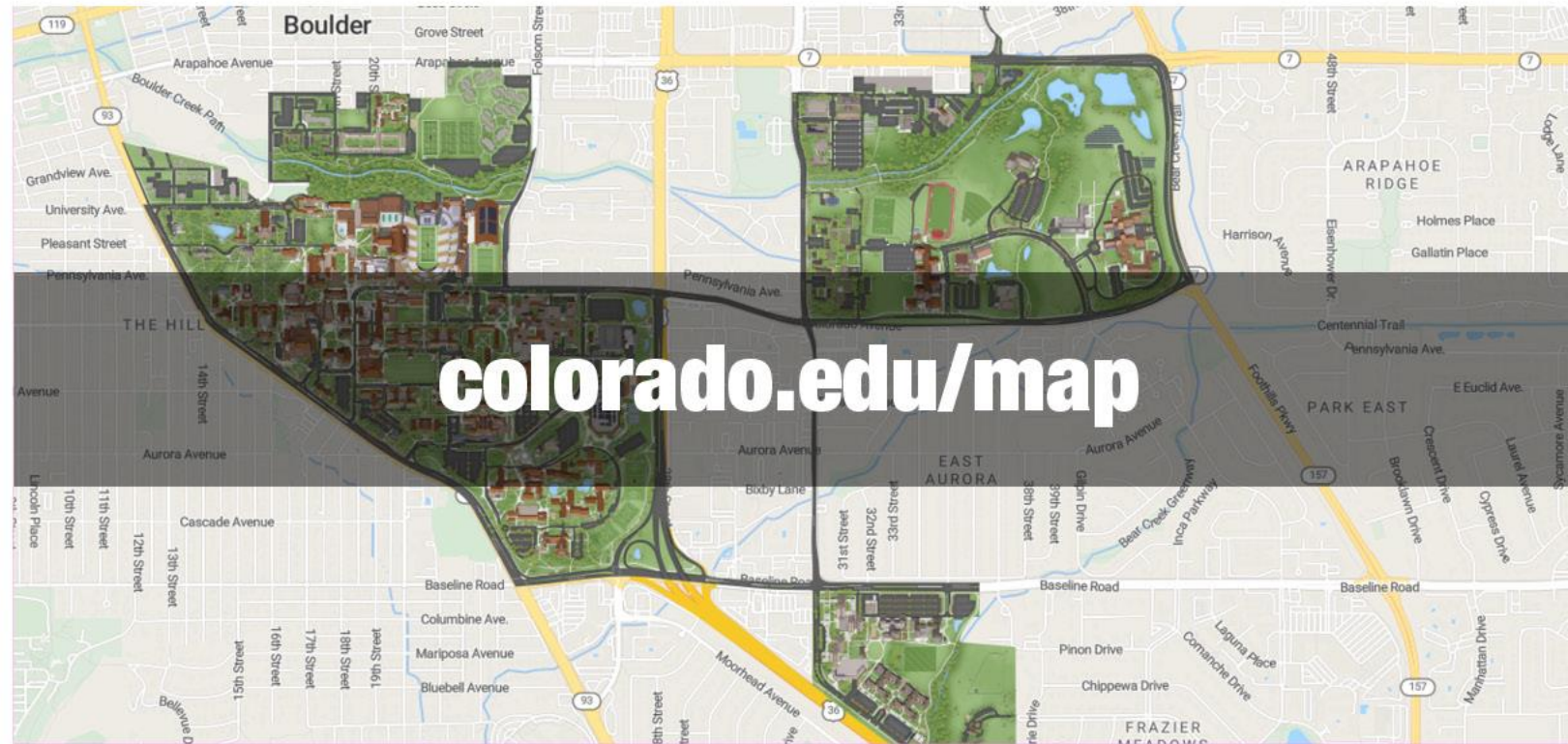
to access the Admitted Student Day 2026 digital agenda



# Admitted Student Day

## Explore campus

- Visit [colorado.edu/map](https://colorado.edu/map) for a mobile-friendly campus map
- Utilize Google Maps walking feature



# **Admitted Student Day**

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## **Make the most of your day**

### **Check in using the text you received this morning:**

- Ensure location services are turned on
- Having trouble? Visit an information tent

### **Six information tents across campus:**

- Stop by and grab your clear tote to collect swag throughout the day (one per admitted student/family)
- Grab a campus map and paper agenda
- Talk with current students about their experience on campus

### **Need help?**

- Ask any staff member in a gold t-shirt and gold nametag





# Admitted Student Day

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## Helpful reminders

### Dining on campus

- Check out all the options available on your agenda
- Busiest times in dining centers are between 12-1:30 p.m.
- Experience Folsom Field with lunch in the stadium!

### Residence hall viewing

- Halls open from 12:30-4 p.m.
- Must show confirmation email titled “Registration Reminder: Admitted Student Day 2026”

### Divide and conquer

# Congratulations on your admission! Go Buffs!

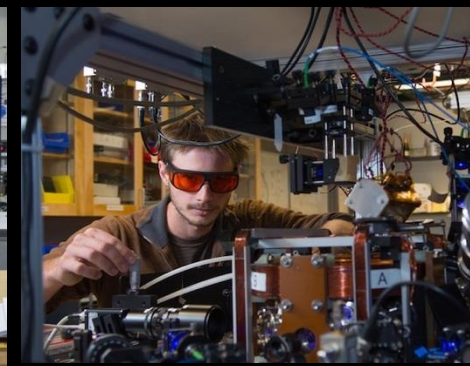
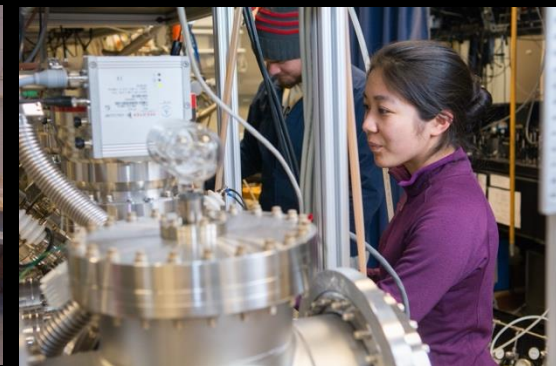
Tag @FutureBuffs and use  
#ASDatCU and #BoulderBound



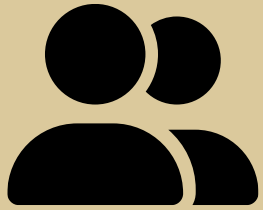


# Physics

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



# About CU Physics



60+ faculty



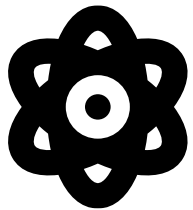
500+ undergrads



300+ graduate students



4 Nobel Prizes



Many research specialties

AMO, condensed matter, biophysics, geophysics, plasma, high energy, physics education, nuclear & particle physics, quantum...



Physics

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# Why study physics at CU?

- Intro physics courses designed for majors
- **Hands-on labs** at every level
- Strong emphasis on **undergrad research**
- Our physics education researchers study the best ways to teach physics – and apply those methods in our classes
- One-on-one faculty mentoring
- **Community & support** from physics student groups



...plus entertaining and educational lecture demos!



Physics

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# Academics

- Physics – College of Arts & Sciences
  - Research/grad school plan
  - Interdisciplinary plan – focus electives in astrophysics, computer science, math, etc.
  - Teaching plan
- Engineering Physics – College of Engineering and Applied Science
- Physics Minor

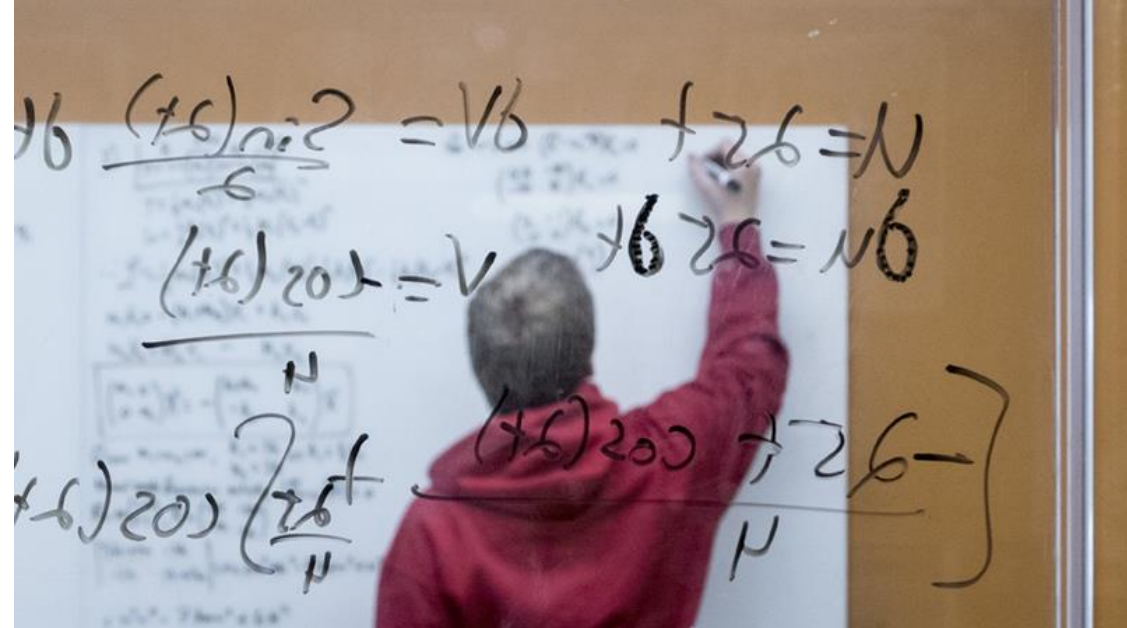


Physics

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# Physics major

- Required physics courses (36 credit hours)
- Math sequence, MATH or APPM (16-21 credit hours)
- Chemistry (5 credit hours)
- Physics electives (9 credit hours)
  - Research
  - Programming (python)



## Selection of electives

- Quantum Computing
- Plasma Physics
- Solid State Physics
- Nuclear and Particle Physics
- Optics
- Teaching & Learning Physics
- Biophysics
- Gravitational Theory – General Relativity
- Quantum Forge



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# Sample Four Year Plan

## FRESHMAN YEAR CREDITS CREDITS

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
PHYS 1115 or PHYS 1110 General Physics 1	4	PHYS 1125 or PHYS 1120 General Physics 2	4
MATH 1300 Calculus 1	5	PHYS 1140 Experimental Physics	1
		MATH 2300 Calculus 2	5

## SOPHOMORE YEAR CREDITS CREDITS

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
PHYS 2170 Foundations of Modern Phys	3	PHYS 2210 Classical Mech & Math Methods	3
PHYS 2150 Experimental Physics 2	1	MATH 3430 Differential Equations	3
MATH 2400 Calculus 3	5	CHEM 1113/1114 General Chemistry 1	5
MATH 2130 Linear Algebra	3	Programming requirement	3

## JUNIOR YEAR CREDITS CREDITS

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
PHYS 3210 Classical Mech & Math Meth 2	3	PHYS 3220 Quantum Mechanics 1	3
PHYS 3310 Principles of Elec & Mag 1	3	PHYS 3320 Principles of Elec & Mag 2	3
PHYS 3330 Junior Laboratory	2	Physics Elective	3

## SENIOR YEAR CREDITS CREDITS

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
PHYS 4230 Thermodynamics	3	Physics Elective	3
PHYS 4410 Quantum Mechanics 2	3		
Physics Elective	3		

Note: This does not include A&S General Education requirements



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# Academic Support

- Physics Help Room
- Office hours
- Homework groups & tutorials
- Study spaces to collaborate
- Academic Advisors
- Faculty Mentors



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# Physics Faculty Mentors

Students are assigned a faculty mentor to guide their academic progress while pursuing a degree in physics.

- Guidance on physics major requirements
- Research opportunities, future career plans, graduate school
- Must meet once per semester to register for next semester's classes.



# Research

Many fields at CU plus connections to national labs and institutes nearby.

- atomic, molecular & optical physics
- condensed matter
- biophysics
- geophysics
- plasma
- high energy
- physics education
- nuclear & particle physics
- quantum



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# Research

Connections to research institutes & national labs

- JILA
- NIST
- NLR (formerly NREL)
- LASP
- RASEI
- BioFrontiers



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# Why engage in research?

- Apply what you've learned in class to research in physics and related fields
- Learn what it might be like to have a career in research
- Gain technical and non-technical skills that make you marketable to graduate schools and employers
- Get to know a faculty member in a way that would never be possible in a large class
- Discover whether going to graduate school might be a good career option



# Community

*Many student groups in the department provide community and support!*

- Society of Physics Students
  - CU-Prime
  - COSMOS
  - UWaGMiP
  - CU NSBP
  - Quantum Scholars
- ...plus many campuswide groups!



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# Careers

*After graduating with a bachelor's degree...*

50% enter the workforce

45% pursue graduate studies in physics or another field (at some point)

5% other (time off, travel, seeking employment, etc.)

We host an annual Physics & Quantum Career Fair!



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# Careers – Common Job Titles

- Business Analyst
- Data Analyst
- Data Scientist
- Electrical Engineer
- Physicist
- Product Engineer
- Research Assistant
- Science Teacher
- Scientist
- Software Developer
- Software Engineer
- Systems Engineer



# Careers – Common Employers

- Apple
- BAE Systems Inc
- Blue Origin
- Google
- Honeywell
- IBM
- Infleqtion
- Intel
- Laboratory for Atmospheric Space Physics (LASP)
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)
- Lockheed Martin
- Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)
- Maxar Technologies
- Medtronic
- Meta
- NASA Jet Propulsion Lab
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR)
- National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)
- Northrop Grumman
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)
- Quantinuum
- Raytheon
- Sandia National Laboratories



# Department Contacts

Administrative, registration,  
general questions and help!

Email: [physics@colorado.edu](mailto:physics@colorado.edu)

Call: 303-492-6952



Maria Martinez  
Undergraduate Program Professional



Physics

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# Astrophysical & Planetary Sciences

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



# Admitted Students Welcome 2026

# Astrophysical & Planetary Sciences

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

## Our Department

- The largest astronomy undergraduate program in the US! (~450 majors)
- 29 faculty, ~65 grad students, ~30 postdocs, ~15 staff, 1 “emotional support dog”
- Well-integrated, friendly, supportive community



## Research using many approaches

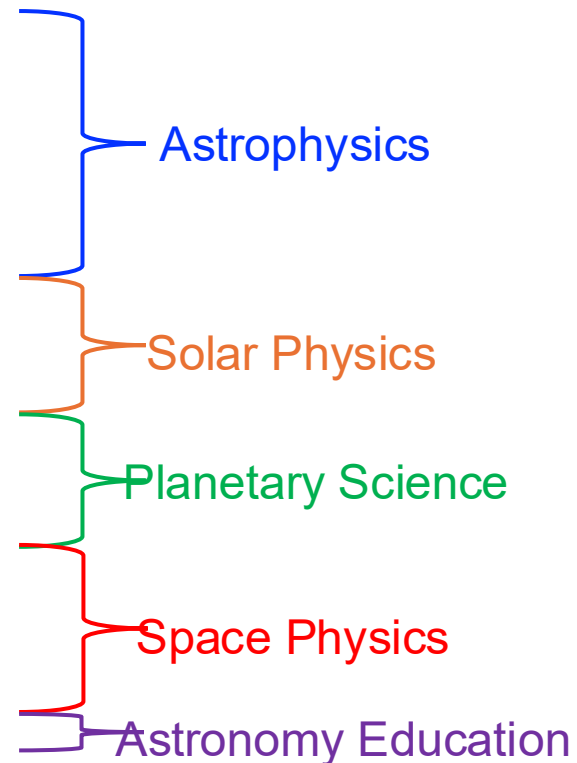
Observational (telescopes and spacecraft missions)

Theoretical (simulations and analytic approaches)

Experimental (instrument design, sounding rockets)

## Topics that include

- cosmology
- galaxies
- black holes
- stellar interiors
- stellar dynamics
- exoplanets and their host stars
- solar and stellar flares
- solar turbulence
- the solar atmosphere
- planetary atmospheres
- planetary surfaces and ices
- planetary rings
- space weather
- solar wind
- magnetospheric physics
- ionospheric physics
- astronomy education

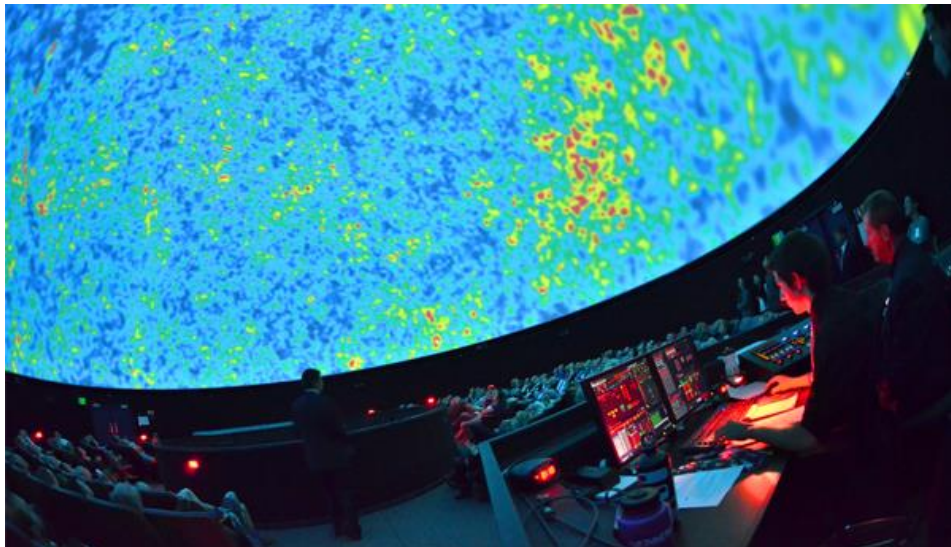


# Astrophysical & Planetary Sciences

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

# Fiske Planetarium

- Premier university planetarium in the world
- Large and technologically cutting-edge
- Class lectures, laser shows, public talks, performances
- Produces shows shown in 1100 planetaria in 85 countries
- Student employees

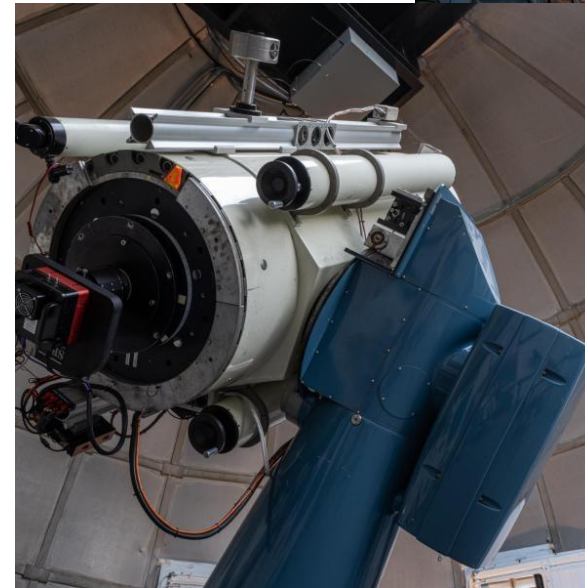
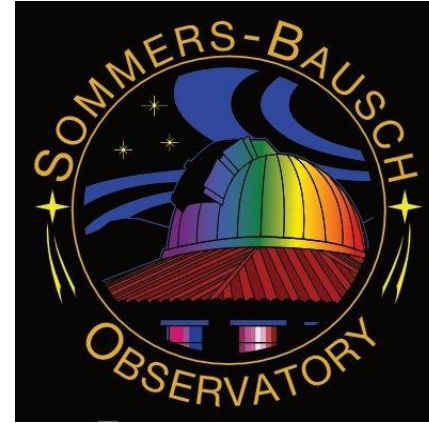


# Astrophysical & Planetary Sciences

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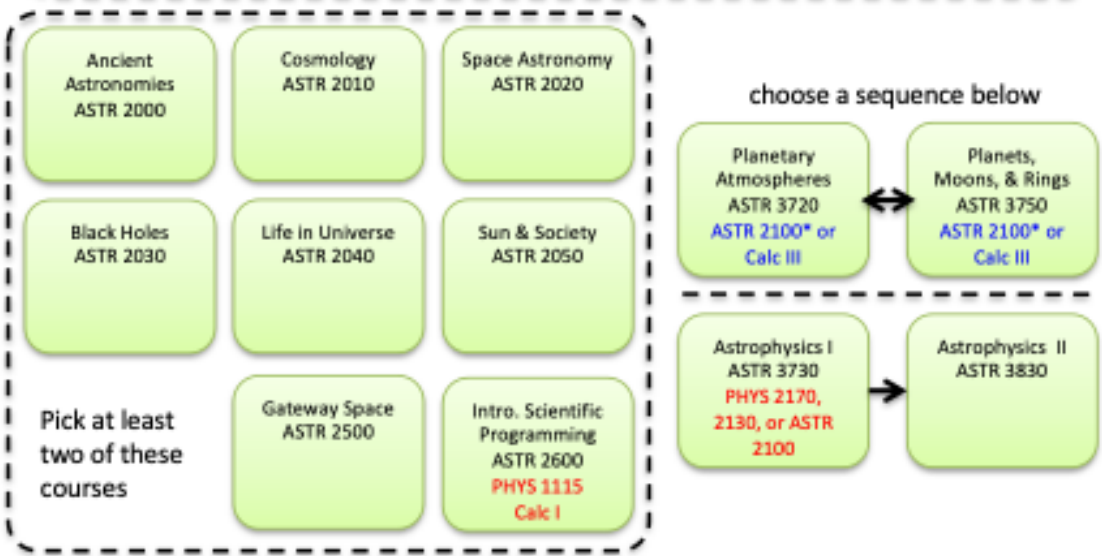
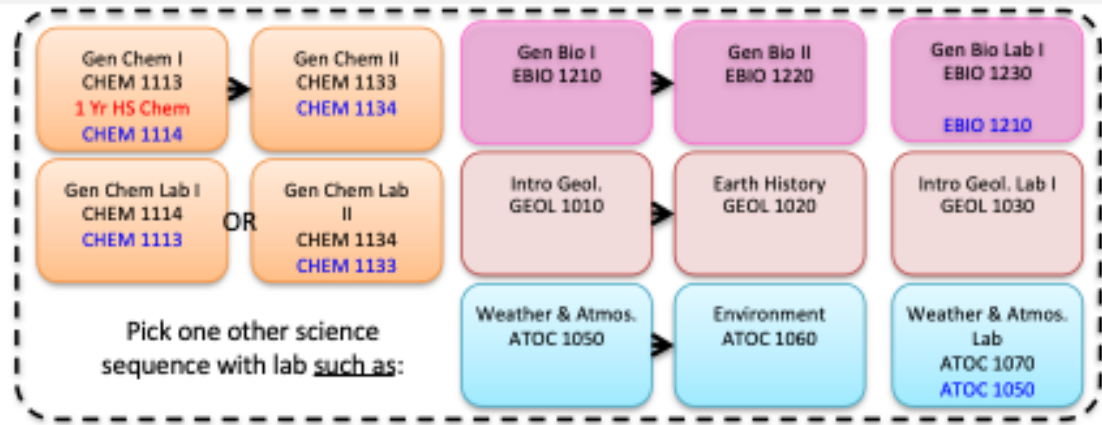
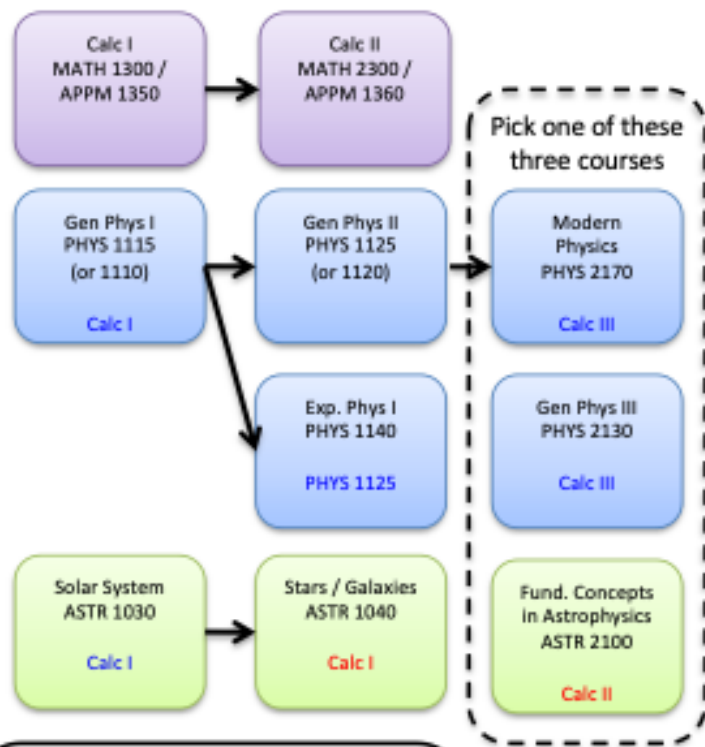
# Sommers-Bausch Observatory

- Teaching observatory here on campus
- Two 20" telescopes + 24" telescope
- Heliostat & Radio telescope
- Lab room + computer lab
- Coming soon: Mountain Research Station



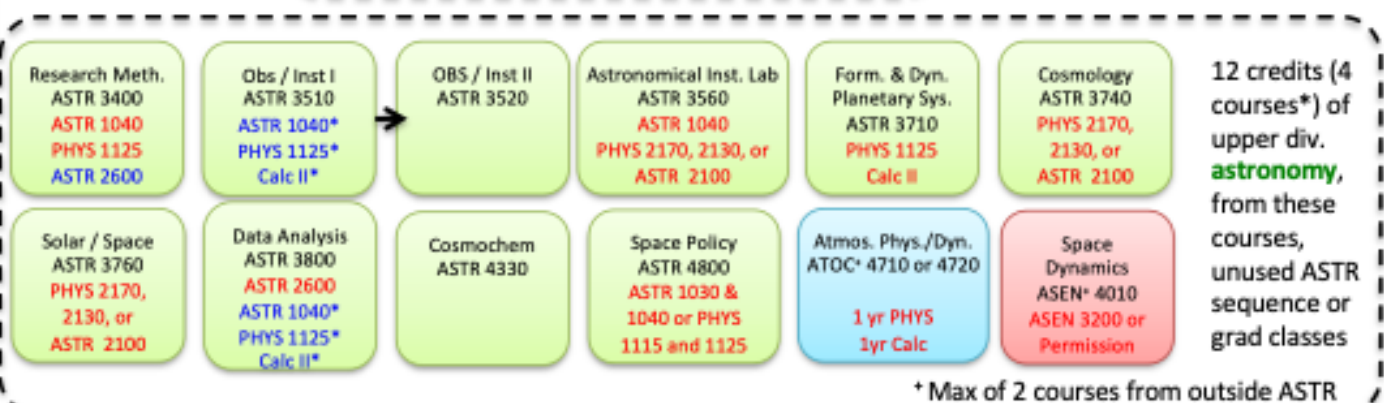
- Our department is a 1/8 member
- Our 2-semester observational astronomy course culminates in a field trip to APO to use the 3.5 m telescope

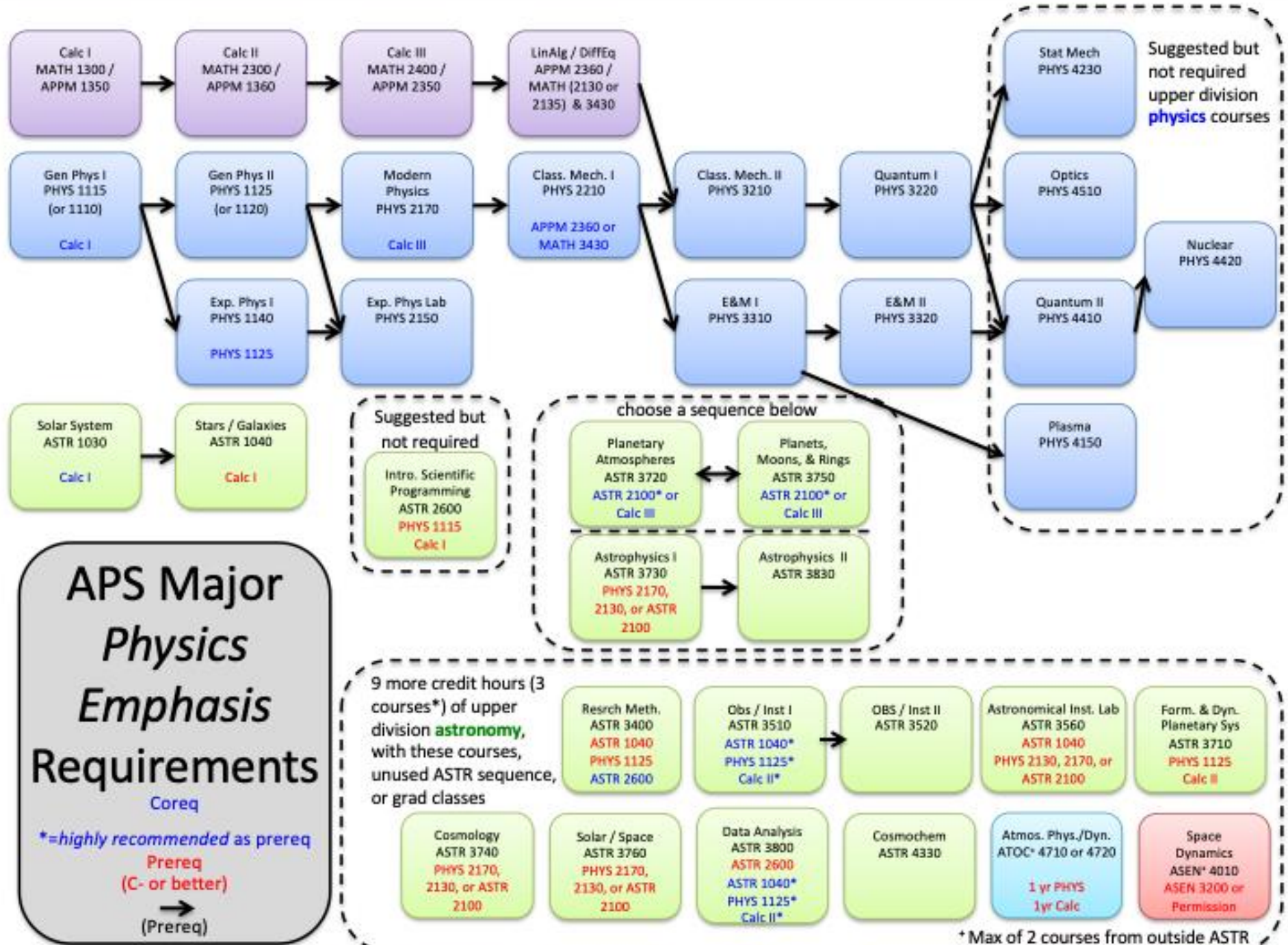




**APS Major  
Interdisciplinary  
Emphasis  
Requirements**

Coreq  
\* = highly recommended as prereq  
Prereq  
(C- or better)  
→  
(Prereq)

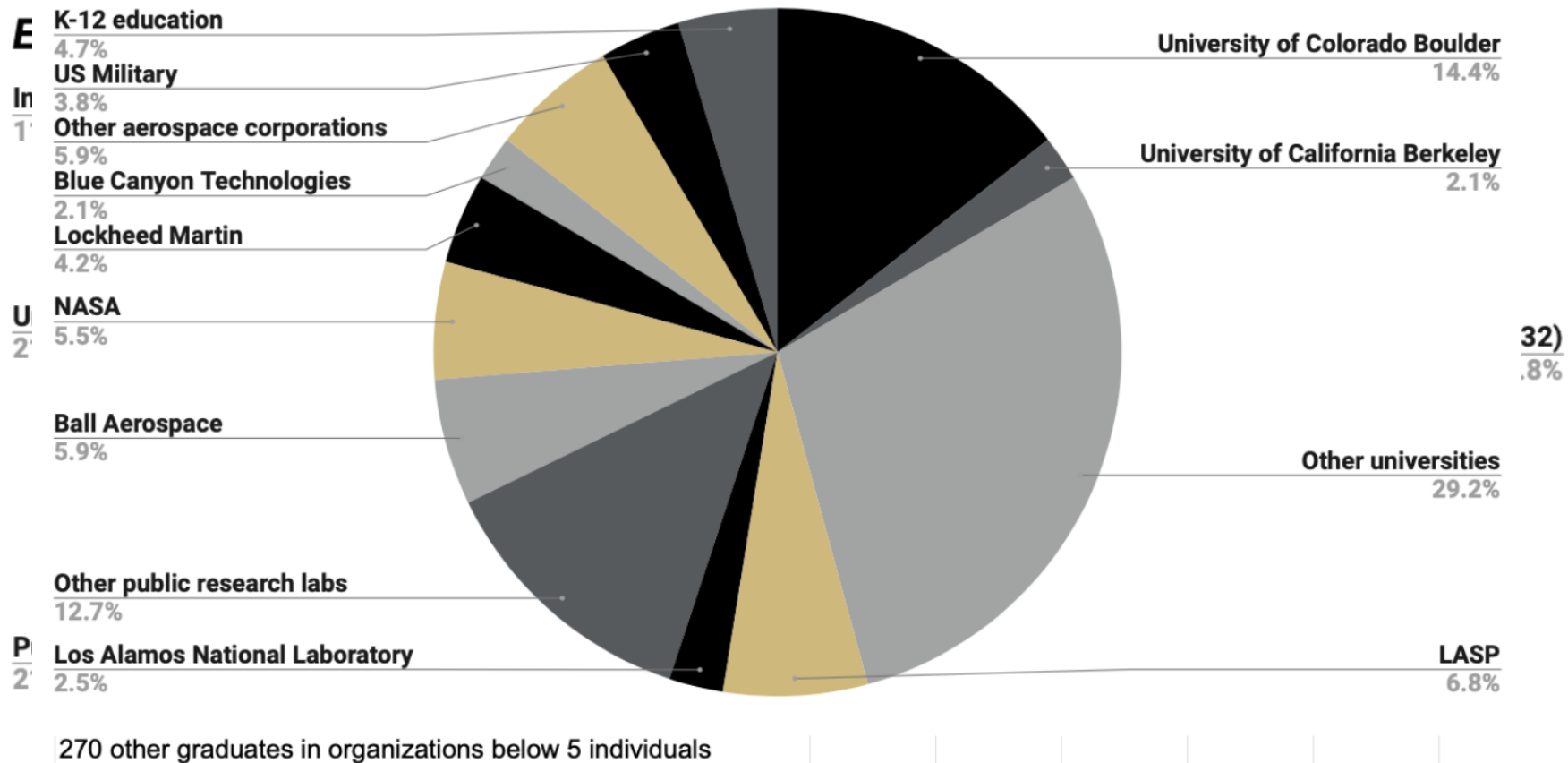




- Clubs
- SBO & Fiske
- Learning Assistant
- Grader
- Research



**Top Employers for 236 ASTR Major Graduates (2001-2023)**



### Advising ← all CU students

- Helps you think through, identify and locate anything you need for success at CU
- Class registration, academic support, requirements for degree completion, CU policies, non-academic issues that impact academic success, etc.

### Mentoring ← APS students

- Helps you navigate the degree and what comes after
- APS courses, extra-curriculars, internships and research, career advice, etc.
- Required in all but your last semester at CU **to lift your registration hold**



## Department Chair

Dave Brain

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## Associate Chair for Undergraduate Education

Lauren Blum

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## Undergraduate Program Coordinator

Brittney Washington

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# Questions?



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## Astrophysical & Planetary Sciences

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