

EXPLORE OUR UNIVERSE

Astronomy is one of the greatest adventures in human history, a quest to understand our origin and fate within the infinite richness of the universe. Join this adventure by exploring the astronomy program at the University of Texas at Austin. The Department of Astronomy at UT Austin is one of the top ten astronomy research programs in the United States. Our faculty members are internationally recognized researchers in the field of cosmology, galaxies, stars, the interstellar medium, planets, the solar system, and instrumentation.

Our undergraduate program in the Department of Astronomy provides exciting opportunities for students with an interest in astronomy, physics, mathematics, or related sciences. We offer a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Astronomy, a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Astronomy, and a Bachelor of Science with Special Honors in Astronomy. We also offer flexibility for cross-disciplinary interactions, and our astronomy majors often graduate with a double degree (e.g., in Astronomy and Physics) and are enrolled in cross-disciplinary programs, such as the Dean's Scholars and Plan II Honors programs. Our successful astronomy graduates pursue higher Masters and Ph.D. degrees in graduate schools, and follow many career paths spanning education, research, computing, government, industry, and journalism.

With 22 active teaching faculty, 17 research scientists, numerous research associates and postdoctoral fellows, 45 graduate and over 60 undergraduate students, the department fosters a stimulating and friendly atmosphere that promotes intellectual and personal development. We offer awards to talented entering and advanced students, and provide a mentoring program between graduates and undergraduates. We offer vibrant research opportunities that prepare our undergraduates for graduate schools and a variety of careers.

Students can learn from, and conduct research with some of the world's top astronomers who are investigating the births of the first stars and galaxies, deciphering how proto-galaxies evolved into present-day systems like our own Milky Way, studying planets in extra-solar systems, and probing the nature of dark matter and dark energy. Students use the McDonald Observatory in West Texas, multi wavelength telescopes all over the world, and data from NASA's space-based facilities, including the Spitzer Infrared Satellite, the Hubble Space Telescope, and Swift Gamma Ray Burst Explorer.



For more information

Undergraduate Program

www.as.utexas.edu/astronomy/education/ugradstudies.html

Departmental Undergraduate Awards

www.as.utexas.edu/astronomy/education/uawards.html
undergrad-award@astro.as.utexas.edu

Department of Astronomy

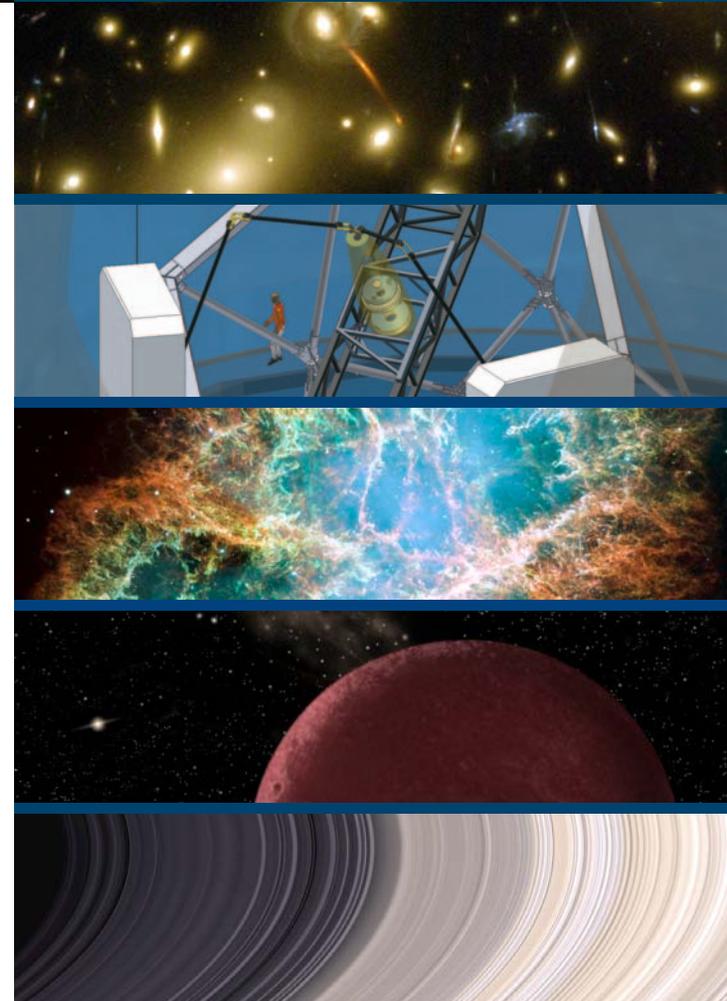
www.as.utexas.edu/astronomy/astronomy.html

McDonald Observatory

mcdonaldobservatory.org

Contact us

If you have questions, please contact us
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UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS
DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Student Support and Awards

- Prize awards given to the best student admitted to the first year of the UT Astronomy program
- Scholarships to students in the 2nd to 4th years for outstanding academic achievement, research, and service
- Awards to support research and travel to astronomy conferences
- Awards to support travel and accommodation expenses at McDonald Observatory from the Walton Funds



Mentorships

Graduate students serve as mentors, providing guidance on the astronomy program and acting as a bridge between undergraduates and faculty members.



Research Experience for Undergraduates in Astronomy and Astrophysics

Year-round opportunities to conduct exciting research projects spanning a wide range of astrophysical topics with our internationally recognized faculty and research staff. Additional 10-week summer field experience at McDonald Observatory



Astronomy Student Association

An enjoyable way for undergraduate students to be more involved in research and the scientific process and for non-scientists to learn about astronomy.

Astronomy at The University of Texas at Austin

One of the Top 10 astronomy research programs in the country

Department of Astronomy

Faculty members are among the worldwide leaders in cosmology, galaxies, stars, the interstellar medium, planets, and the solar system.



McDonald Observatory

World-class research telescopes and instrumentation, including the Hobby-Eberly Telescope, one of the world's largest.



Degree Programs

- Bachelor of Arts in Astronomy
- Bachelor of Science in Astronomy
- Honors Program
- Opportunities for double degrees and cross-disciplinary programs



Sample Courses

Lower Division Astronomy and Physics

- Introductory Astronomy
- Mechanics
- Electricity and Magnetism
- Wave Motion and Optics
- Astronomical Observations

Upper Division Astronomy and Physics

- General Stellar Astronomy
- Astrophysics
- Galaxies and the Universe
- Cosmology
- Astronomical Instrumentation
- Classical Dynamics
- Classical Electrodynamics
- Quantum Mechanics
- Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics



Career Options

- Astronomer and Educator
- Research Scientist
- Telescope Operator
- Instrument/Spacecraft Designer
- Science Museum Planner/Lecturer
- Science Writer/Journalist
- Climate Researcher
- Computer/Electronics/Equipment Designer
- Data Analyst for non-astronomical research
- Software Developer
- Computer Programmer