The Department of Physics at SMU offers Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degrees in physics through our major programs and the opportunity for undergraduates to minor in physics.

Through our doctoral program, we offer a Ph.D. with a focus on particle physics, including collider physics, neutrino physics, particle astrophysics, and theoretical particle physics.

Undergraduate and graduate students are heavily involved in research at leading experiments in particle physics and astrophysics, such as studying the Higgs boson, measuring properties of neutrinos, and searching for dark matter. Our alumni have an outstanding record of success in finding jobs after earning their degrees.

We invite you to read on to learn more about the academic and research opportunities for students in our program.
The SMU Department of Physics cares deeply about undergraduate education and offers an undergraduate program that consists of studies in areas of classical and modern physics. The department offers both a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) physics degree program, as well as a physics minor program. In addition, exceptional students have the opportunity to pursue dual-degree programs in physics and electrical engineering or physics and mechanical engineering.

Why Study Physics at SMU?

Physics teaches you the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills needed to address the most challenging questions in science and beyond. At SMU, we do this by providing you a complete learning environment. Our faculty have been recognized at SMU for their excellence in teaching and provide rigor and engagement in the classroom. The SMU physics department has been a part of leading discoveries in the field, including the 2013 Nobel Prize-winning Higgs Particle discovery. We offer opportunities for meaningful research into some of the most challenging questions in science. Physics provides a great path to careers not only in science, but also in medicine, law and engineering. Recent Bachelor's Degree recipients have continued into graduate programs in physics at Harvard and medical physics at University of Texas-San Antonio. Recent physics minors have continued into medical school and neuroscience graduate programs. In addition, research shows a degree in physics can increase your earning potential right out of college.

Our low student-to-faculty classroom ratio provides ample opportunity for students to interact directly with faculty. This enables a flexible, personal, and comprehensive learning environment. Students also work directly with faculty on research projects in experimental astrophysics, dark matter and particle physics, and theoretical particle physics. Undergraduate research scholarships are available for exceptional students through the Dedman College Hamilton Scholars Program, and the department also offers a variety of awards for outstanding students.

Undergraduate Admission

To apply to SMU, please visit:

www.smu.edu/admission/apply

For questions about our undergraduate physics degree programs, please contact the department and ask to speak with the Director of Undergraduate Studies.
Physics Ph.D. Program

The SMU Department of Physics is dedicated to excellence in graduate education for small numbers of students with an emphasis on high-energy particle physics and particle astrophysics.

Students in the Ph.D. program benefit from a low student-to-faculty ratio, accessible faculty and research staff, and a range of opportunities for research in leading experimental and theoretical research programs, including the ATLAS Experiment at the Large Hadron Collider, the NOvA neutrino experiment, and the SuperCDMS Dark Matter direct detection experiment. Our students have recently participated in the discovery and measurement of the Higgs Boson and made world-leading contributions to this area. Ph.D. recipients have found much success after graduate school: past graduates earned faculty positions (Kansas State University, IFAE-Barcelona, and Texas Tech) and even founded companies (Rock Flow Dynamics); recent graduates have earned faculty positions, continued in the field in post-doctoral positions at established institutions (such as University of Texas and the Ohio State University), or earned positions in private industry (such as Lockheed-Martin).

Many students begin research projects during their first year. All students in good standing receive teaching or research stipends during the academic year and have their tuition waived. Summer support is also available. Excellent students are also eligible for supplemental graduate fellowships. Students typically receive support for work as teaching assistants during their first two years, and, after successful completion of the Ph.D. program requirements, research support until completion of their thesis and degree.

For more information: [www.physics.smu.edu/web/degrees/graddegree.html](http://www.physics.smu.edu/web/degrees/graddegree.html)

Graduate Admission

Admission applications must include GRE general and subject (physics) exam scores. We also require TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores, when applicable. Information and application materials are available from:

Research & Graduate Studies  
Southern Methodist University  
Dallas, TX 75275 (USA)  

[www.smu.edu/admission/apply](http://www.smu.edu/admission/apply)
SMU and Dallas

SMU is a private research university. It was founded in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and established by Robert. S. Hyer, a physicist and our first University President. The University admitted its first class in 1915 and is a nonsectarian university.

SMU is located near the center of Dallas. This provides convenient access to the city and the surrounding neighborhoods. The University is home to a balanced and diverse population of about 11,000 total undergraduate and graduate students.

The city of Dallas is a part of the much larger Dallas-Forth Worth (D/ FW) Metroplex, the fourth-largest metropolitan area in the United States. Dallas is served by the D/ FW International Airport, the second-largest airport in the U.S. With more than 200 non-stop destinations (including 52 international), students have both travel choice and flexibility. The city offers a variety of options for entertainment, including the nation's largest urban arts district, a wide range of music, outstanding restaurants and shops, and five professional sports teams. There is ample public transportation in the Metroplex. Students have wide freedom of movement throughout the region thanks to reduced-fare passes.

Further Information

Physics Course Catalog

www.physics.smu.edu/web/courses

Student Awards and Recognition

www.physics.smu.edu/web/awards/

The Hamilton Undergraduate Research Scholars Program

www.smu.edu/Dedman/DCII/Programs/Hamilton