

Why Major in Astronomy & Astrophysics?

The answer is two-fold. First, modern-day astronomy is a fast-moving and exciting field which addresses such fundamental questions as “How old is the Universe” and “Is there life out there among the stars?” Majoring in Astronomy & Astrophysics will have you routinely thinking about such things as black holes, galaxies, and extra-solar planets and will add new depth and richness to your view of the nighttime sky. Second, an undergraduate degree in Astronomy and Astrophysics will have you poised for a successful leap into the next important stage of your life, whether it be a continuation of your education in graduate school or entry into the job market.

A recent study by the *Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce* reveals that the current unemployment rate for those whose undergraduate major was Astronomy & Astrophysics is 0% (that’s zero percent)! An earlier study by the *Georgetown Center* also showed that science and engineering graduates generally have significantly higher earnings over the course of their working careers than those with other majors.

So what do Astronomy & Astrophysics majors do after they receive their degrees? A survey of Villanova’s own Astronomy & Astrophysics alumni shows them to be placed in all areas of the business sector (technical and non-technical), in education, working for government agencies (military and civilian), and working as professional astronomers. The attributes of an Astronomy & Astrophysics education that makes majors so employable are several: the work ethic developed through completion of a challenging major, strong problem-solving skills, mathematical literacy, computer programming skills, and a broad

base of knowledge that results from completion of a technical major in a Liberal Arts university like Villanova. In brief, the successful completion of a major in Astronomy & Astrophysics assures that many doors will be open upon graduation.

The results of the *Georgetown Center* study can be found at news.yahoo.com/blogs/lookout/10-college-majors-lowest-unemployment-rates-163049193.html