The Department of Astronomy aims to achieve excellence in research, education, and outreach in the areas of astronomy and astrophysics. We maintain internationally recognized research programs (https://www.astro.umd.edu/rareas) that address fundamental questions on all scales from our solar system to the entire universe. Our observations cover the entire electromagnetic spectrum from radio waves to gamma rays, and we make use of telescopes all over the world as well as space telescopes and space missions. Our theoretical work makes use of state-of-the-art computational resources. Both our graduate (https://www.astro.umd.edu/graduate) and undergraduate (https://www.astro.umd.edu/undergrad) curricula are continuously revised and updated, and we receive high student evaluations in our introductory courses and courses for majors. Our Observatory Open Houses (https://www.astro.umd.edu/openhouse) have been enjoyed by the public for over 40 years.

**Programs**

**Major**
- Astronomy Major (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-sciences/astonomy/astonomy-major)

**Minors**

**Advising**

Further information about the program can be obtained by calling the Department of Astronomy office at 301-405-3001.

Students who have been away more than two years may find that due to curriculum changes the courses they have taken may no longer be adequate preparation for the courses required to complete the major. Students in this situation must meet with the Departmental Advisor to make appropriate plans.

**Opportunities**

**Undergraduate Research Experiences**

Undergraduates have many research opportunities both on and off campus. More information is available on the department website under "Undergraduate Research" (http://www.astro.umd.edu/undergrad/ugresearch.html).

**Internships**

Many undergraduate students do astronomy research internships at the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center. See the department website under 'Undergraduate Research' (http://www.astro.umd.edu/undergrad/ugresearch.html).

**Honors Program**

The Honors Program offers students of exceptional ability and interest in Astronomy opportunities for research participation. Honors students work with a faculty advisor on a research project for which academic credit is earned. Certain graduate courses are open for credit toward the bachelor’s degree. (Students are accepted into the Honors Program by the Department’s Honors Committee on the basis of grade point average or recommendation of faculty.) Honors candidates enroll in ASTR399, complete a research project, write a thesis and do an oral presentation before a committee. Satisfactory grades lead to graduation With Honors (or High Honors) in Astronomy. Further information about the Honors Program can be obtained by calling the Department of Astronomy office at 301-405-3001.

**Student Societies and Professional Organizations**

AstroTerps is a student club open to all undergraduates with an interest in astronomy. The club invites guest speakers and coordinates many outreach activities, field trips, and special events.

AGN is a group of astronomy undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers. Their goals include facilitating community among astronomy undergraduates, discussing the challenges that women in science face, and giving graduate students a chance to share their experiences with undergraduates through this mentoring opportunity. See the AGN webpage (http://agn.astro.umd.edu) for details.

**Scholarships and Financial Assistance**

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) administers all types of federal, state and institutional financial assistance programs and, in cooperation with other university offices, participates in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. For information, visit: www.financialaid.umd.edu.

**Awards and Recognition**

For information about external and university awards which our undergraduate students have won, see the department’s Fellowships and Prizes webpage (http://www.astro.umd.edu/undergrad/fellowships.html#PreviousWinners).

**Academic Programs and Departmental Facilities**

The Department of Astronomy is a full partner in the 4.3m Discovery Channel Telescope (DCT) (https://lowell.edu/research/research-facilities/4-3-meter-dct/), one of the largest and most technologically advanced telescopes in the continental U.S. We have joined Caltech and other partners in the Zwicky Transient Facility (http://www.ptf.caltech.edu/ztf), a time-domain survey for studying rare and exotic transient phenomena with first light at Palomar Observatory in 2017. The Department is involved with major space missions, such as NASA’s Deep Impact, EPOXI, and Rosetta missions which have explored comets. Additionally, the Department operates a small observatory.

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(http://www.astro.umd.edu/openhouse/) on campus which has four fixed telescopes ranging in aperture from 20" to 7" and six portable 8" telescopes. This facility is used for undergraduate majors' classes and for small-scale research projects, as well as for an Open House Program for the public. The Department operates a modern computer cluster (http://www.astro.umd.edu/rareas/ctc/#ctcfacilities) for computation-intensive science projects, and we have a new visualization laboratory for state-of-the-art simulations and displays of large datasets. Opportunities are available for undergraduates to become involved in research with all of these facilities. Many of our students also conduct research and instrumentation projects with distinguished scientists at the nearby NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and other sites.