For EIU students pursuing a BS degree in Physics the department provides a solid and challenging education and prepares them to excel in diverse career paths where independent thinking, analytical skills, and experimental skills are useful. We have a caring and committed faculty who can give students individualized attention through mentored research and personalized advising. Career paths of our graduates include graduate or professional school, industrial research, and education, not just in
If you have a passion for understanding how things work and enjoy scientific experiments and mathematics, then you should study physics. The subject has fascinated men and women of every age including Sir Isaac Newton, Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr and Stephen Hawking. Physics is the study of the universe from the largest galaxies to the smallest structure of matter. Concepts from relativity to quantum mechanics challenge the imagination. Physics and technologies developed by physicists play a major role in chemistry, biology, medicine, electronics, geology, and the applied fields of optics, nanotechnology, computer science and engineering. **Physics is the foundation of modern science.**

**FIVE OPTIONS**

**Physics Major**—Designed for students interested in research in industry or government, pursuing an advanced degree in physics, or teaching at the college or university level.

**Astronomy Option**—Designed for students desiring a liberal arts background in theoretical and experimental Astronomy.

**Computational Physics Option**—Designed for students interested in the computational approach to solving complex problems in physics. This program is for students seeking industrial employment or graduate school.

**Engineering Physics Option**—Requires three years work in the physics program at EIU followed by two years to complete an engineering degree at another institution. Combining the physics major with the engineering major gives students a competitive edge in the workforce.

**Teacher Licensure**—Prepares students for a career teaching high school physics including AP and honors physics.

**OTHER PROGRAMS**

**BS in Engineering**—Three years at EIU and two years at another institution to complete an Engineering degree and upon completion students get degrees from both schools.

**Pre-Engineering**—Students take first two years of coursework towards an engineering degree at EIU and then transfer to a school of their choice to complete their degree.

**Departmental Honors Program**—EIU Honors through Physics.

**Electrical Engineering**—4 year Electrical Engineering degree program offered at EIU.

**Fast Facts**

**Small Classes**—Introductory physics major classes typically have about 30 students, while advanced physics classes are typically less than 12.

**Qualified faculty**—The physics department has an outstanding, caring, and accessible faculty composed of PhDs., with classes and labs taught by faculty rather than by graduate students.

**Research experience**—Physics students have the opportunity to work closely with faculty members on research projects that may be experimental, theoretical or computational.

**Hands-on training**—Students have access to lasers; an X-ray diffractometer, a 16” telescope, a 32” telescope, a thin film deposition system, an atomic force microscope, and other advanced equipment.

**Clubs**—Students may join various science related clubs, including the Society of Physics Students and the Astronomy Club.