Physics









When you study physics, you seek a fundamental understanding of the beauty, order, and sophistication of the physical universe God created.

You'll study classical and modern physics and construct experiments using state-of-the-art instrumentation. You can conduct research with Westmont professors in astrophysics, nuclear physics, and particle physics. You can also research at other institutions through NSF-funded programs or pursue internships with local high-tech firms. Such practical training prepares you for graduate school and professional work in science, engineering, and related fields. Interested in teaching junior high or high school physics? Consider coupling your four-year physics degree with Westmont's accelerated Teaching Credential Program.

SELECTED COURSES

- Advanced Physics Lab
- Classical Mechanics
- Computational Physics
- Electricity and Magnetism
- Mathematical Methods in Physics
- Modern Physics (lecture and lab)
- Quantum Mechanics (2 semesters)
- Thermodynamics

CAREER PATHS

- Research physicist
- Engineering (mechanical, electrical, process, civil, aeronautical, etc.)
- Software development
- Teaching (high school or college)
- Materials research
- Nuclear medical science
- Medicine
- Patent law
- Science writing
- Technician
- Forensic science
- Museum education



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



WILL ALLISON, M.S.

A mechanical design engineer with extensive experience in CAD and prototyping



BEN CARLSON, PH.D.

Searches for new fundamental particles at the Large Hadron Collider



JENNIFER GEE, PH.D.

Explores creation from the fingerprints of the early universe



BOB HARING-KAYE, PH.D.

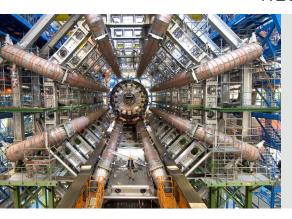
Studies atomic nuclei at the limits of spin and binding



MICHAEL SOMMERMANN, PH.D.

A nuclear physicist who takes astronomical photos

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES



- ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider
- Early-universe cosmology using the Simons Array
- Nuclear structure studies using gamma-ray spectroscopy

ALUMNI

Chisondi Warioba '21, originally from Tanzania, chose Westmont as a stepping-stone to medical school. Chisondi was one of four students in his class who completed a triple major (Chemistry, Biology, and Physics). He led the Black Student Union his junior year and organized Residence Life events centered around social issues. At the 2021 Commencement, Chisondi received the Dave Dolan Award for his leadership in responding to the social and spiritual needs of the college. Chisondi completed a PhD in Medical Physics at the University of Chicago and is currently a medical Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford.

Lexy Gillette '22 majored in both Physics and Chemistry, integrating her faith with her studies. She participated in two research projects with a faculty mentor at both Westmont and UC Davis and completed an internship at Northrop Grumman. She also volunteered to promote science to local high school girls. Lexy received a prestigious John and Daria Barry Foundation Scholarship to attend Oxford University to support her pursuit of a PhD. Lexy is one of the first recipients of this award in the natural sciences.

