

What to do with a major/certificate/degree in... **Astronomy**

JCCC Contact Information

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Certificates/Degrees Available at JCCC

Transfer program

Description of Major

A branch of the physical sciences that involves the study of our universe (including the planets, sun, solar system and galaxies) followed by analysis and interpretation of the findings.

Job Titles*

Aerospace Engineer	Physicists
Assistant Astronomer	Professor
Astronomer	Research and Development
Atmospheric Scientists	Researcher
Engineer	Science Field Technician
Mathematician	Science Teacher
Meteorologist	Space-based and Ground-based Telescope
Observatory Staff	Operators
Planetarium Director	Theoreticians
Planetarium Science Show Presenter	

**Careers mentioned above are a sample of job titles. Some careers may require additional education or training.*

Personal Characteristics to be Successful

Analytical	Intelligent
Calm	Investigative
Critical thinker	Imaginative
Detail oriented	Patient
Energetic	Problem-solver
Inquisitive	Resilient
Intuitive	Self-disciplined

Workplace Skills

Analyze	Design research equipment
Conduct comparisons	Determine exact measurements
Describe and express observations	Develop solutions
Design and perform experiments	Explore and identify
Design and develop instrumentation and techniques for research and observation	Gather data

Interpret celestial and astronomical phenomena
Knowledge of physics
Monitor processes
Observe, collect and record data
Possess oral and written communication skills
Research
Review information and data

Scientific knowledge and skills
Solves problems
Study history
Strategic planning
Teamwork
Work with abstract concepts and theories
Work under time constraints
Write scientific papers and reports on findings

Professional Organizations

American Astronomical Society
<http://www.aas.org>

American Institute of Physics
<http://www.aip.org>

The American Physical Society
<http://www.aps.org>

Advanced Degrees in the Major?

Yes

Sources:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook Online (visited May 2005):
<http://www.bls.gov/oco>.

Farr, J.M. and Ludden, L.L. (2001). Best Jobs for the 21st Century. Indianapolis, IN: JIST Works, Inc.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration website (visited May 2005):
<http://www.nasa.gov>

Phifer, P. (2000) College Majors and Careers. Chicago, IL: Ferguson Publishing Co.