



*"Thanks to PHYS 3317 I'm fascinated by subatomic particle physics. Cornell fed a curiosity that led me to pursue research at the biggest particle accelerators in the world. I've been working on unraveling some of the greatest mysteries about how the universe works!"*

-Dan Klein, '11

*"I'm proud of the research that I've done here: I've worked with physics professor Itai Cohen in soft condensed matter, with astronomy professor James Lloyd in infrared spectroscopy and instrumentation, and with Penn State astronomy professor Jason Wright in studying star clusters."*

-Angie Wolfgang, '09



**After Cornell** our students have taken their degree in many directions. They have become scientists, engineers, businessmen, consultants, doctors, entrepreneurs, lawyers, politicians, teachers, and more. Our students have attended some of the best graduate schools in the world, and made lasting and important contributions.

Department of Physics  
117 Clark Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853-2501  
(607) 255-6016  
(607) 255-2643

[www.physics.cornell.edu](http://www.physics.cornell.edu)

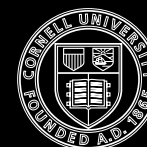
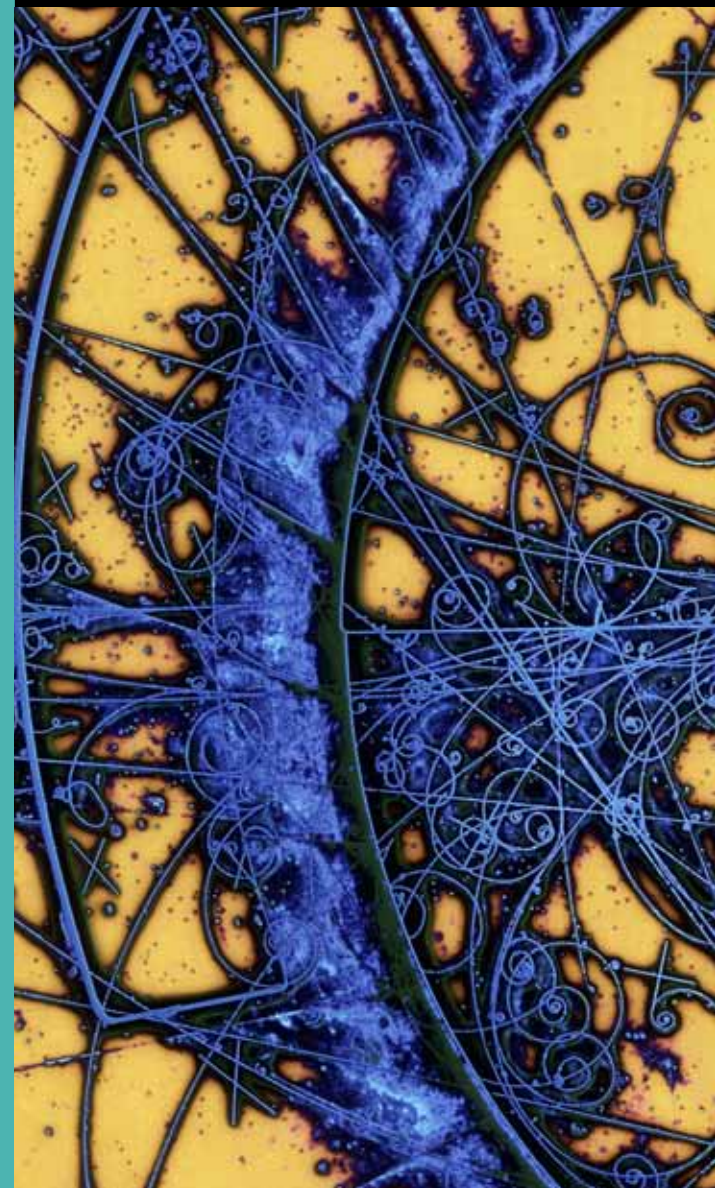
Credits:

Front cover: An artistically enhanced picture of particle tracks in the BEBC, Big European Bubble Chamber, courtesy of CERN (taken from [www.interactions.org](http://www.interactions.org)).

Student Quotes: Images, Jason Koski, University Photography. Quotes courtesy of Cornell Chronicle Online.

Cornell University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action educator and employer.

# DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS



Cornell University  
College of Arts and Sciences

**A degree in physics** provides a deep understanding of the most fundamental phenomena in the universe while developing modes of thought and approaches to problem-solving that are valued in academia, industry, and beyond. These skills empower Cornell physics graduates to succeed in a wide range of careers, such as medicine, law, public policy, financial services, education, engineering and sciences such as physics, astronomy, chemistry, and mathematics.



CMS Detector, Switzerland.

**Our faculty**, including Nobel Laureates and a MacArthur Fellow, are internationally recognized for their teaching and research. Their ongoing efforts at running a dynamic and modern program means that they are frequent recipients of Cornell's Innovations in Teaching Awards.

**Research** is an important component of our program, and most Cornell physics majors collaborate with faculty and graduate students on world-class research. Cornell is one of less than a dozen US universities to have a high energy accelerator and synchrotron source on campus. Our nanofabrication facilities are unsurpassed, and our infrastructure for biophysics is among the most sophisticated in the world.

**The physics major** at Cornell is flexible, with the option to take courses of varying mathematical sophistication. Students choose to concentrate in an area of interest: either physics, or a complimentary field. The program of study is customized for each student.

**Our program** boasts excellent student to teacher ratios, with a median class size of 16 in upper level courses. Introductory courses have 40-150 students in lectures, but break into groups of less than 20 for recitations and labs. All of our courses are taught by PhD physicists - mostly tenured faculty.



Cornell students at CERN, Switzerland.

**Opportunities** abound for being involved in our community. Many of our undergraduates find their place in our physics societies: the Society for Physics Students (SPS) and the Society for Women in Physics (SWIP). Our students give to the broader community through outreach activities, and have the opportunity to develop their teaching skills through our Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (UTA) program. We host colloquia, technical seminars, and public lectures, bringing several world experts to campus every week. Interactions with these visitors, and with Cornell researchers, provide our students with unrivaled opportunities for personal and professional development.



A Cornell student researching in a physics lab.

[www.physics.cornell.edu](http://www.physics.cornell.edu)