

SES06-2006-000099

Abstract for an Invited Paper
for the SES06 Meeting of
the American Physical Society

Physics Majors: Where do they come from? Where do they go?

PATRICK MULVEY, Statistical Research Center, American Institute of Physics

Physics majors represent a small but important part of the physics education system in the United States. They also make up an equally small but important part of the workforce and supply post secondary institutions with students pursuing graduate level degrees in physics. This paper will give an over view of the backgrounds of undergraduate physics majors, the types of institutions and departments they attend, and their experiences as undergraduates. It will outline the types of employment new physics bachelors accept including employment sectors, work activities and the fields in which they are employed. Finally, it will give an overview of the physics majors (and others) who pursue graduate level physics education and their initial employment outcomes.