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Undergraduate Program at the University of Washington

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The University of Washington Department of Physics has one of the largest undergraduate programs in the country. The students enter the program at various times of the year, with varied amounts of credit toward their degree, at various levels, and with varied career goals. The program is designed to allow these students to proceed as expeditiously as possible to complete their degrees and to pursue a wide a set of possible career goals ranging from graduate study in physics to employment in the private sector. The Department has a minimal core program which is offered several times a year to allow students to enter the program at different times of the year and to fill out their program with courses appropriate to their goals. Other important features include a strong advising program, a rich set of advanced laboratory courses which are of special importance for students headed to the private sector, and a physics education program which provides support for the program generally and opportunities for majors to participate in lower level instruction. The Department is attempting to strengthen the sophomore level courses (with consequent implications for the more advanced courses) and to ensure that students are better prepared for the courses they undertake.