Top Research Program

We conduct groundbreaking research, from fundamental to interdisciplinary, to address the most critical questions in science and that lead to major discoveries.

Areas of Research

Theoretical/Computational Astrophysics
Observational & Particle Astrophysics
Quantum Information
Photonics in Quantum Materials
Computational nanoscience
Experimental particle physics
Particle theory and cosmology
Theoretical and experimental biophysics
Medical imaging
Nuclear theory
High-energy nuclear physics
Gravitational wave astrophysics

Centers and Institutions

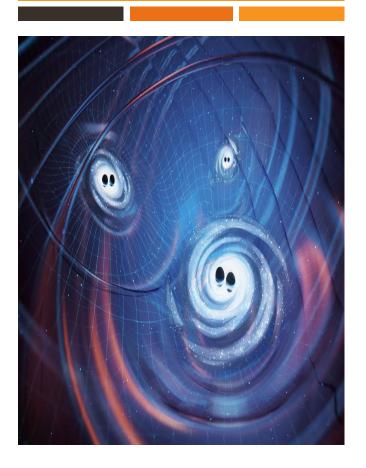
Leadership role in many interdisciplinary centers and institutions, including:

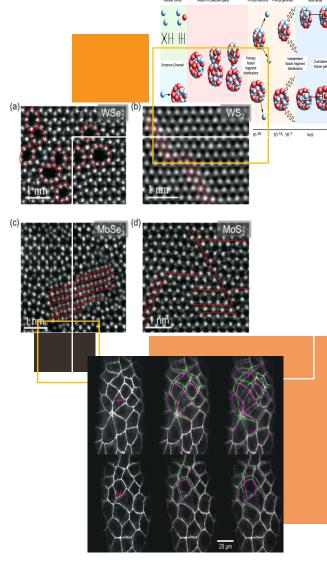
- Advanced Computing Center for Research & Education (ACCRE)
- Vanderbilt Initiative in Data-Intensive Astrophysics (VIDA)
- Vanderbilt Institute of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (VINSE)
- Vanderbilt Institute for Integrative Biosystems Research and Education (VIIBRE)
- Vanderbilt University Institute of Imaging Science (VUIIS)
- Vanderbilt Initiative for Gravity, Waves, and Fluids (VandyGRAF)

Career Opportunities

Our collaborative efforts open opportune doors to prominent research institutions in the US and around the world!

- Brookhaven National Laboratory
- CHESS (Cornell)
- Fermilah
- Large Hadron Collider at CERN
- Marshall Space Flight Center
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- SMARTS Telescopes (Chile)
- KELT-South Telescope (S. Africa)
- NASA
- ... and more!





Physics & Astronomy @ Vanderbilt



Our Graduate Programs

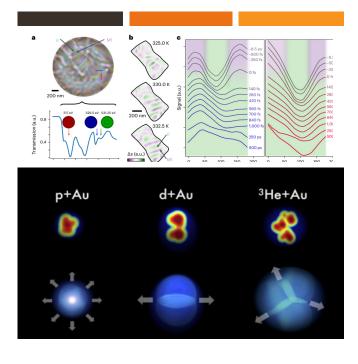
- Offer PhD programs in both Physics and Astrophysics
- 5-year packages of support with full tuition waivers, health insurance coverage, and competitive stipends (\$36,500 per year)
- \$2,000 relocation stipend for all firstyear students
- Travel grants to attend scientific conferences
- Annual awards for outstanding TAs and student-led published papers
- Opportunities for topping-up awards and fellowships

Application fee waivers available

Example Contributions to Major Scientific Results

- Discovery of element, Tennesine
- Discovery of the Higgs Boson
- Discovery of a low-frequency gravitational wave background
- Discovery of a Forbidden Planet
- Evidence for drops of a nearly perfect fluid in nuclear collisions
- Discovery of hypervelocity stars escaping the galaxy
- State-of-the-art black hole imaging algorithms
- Ultrafast X-ray imaging of lightinduced phase transitions

... and many more!



"... an incredibly stimulating yet personal research environment ... I never feel like I'm fighting for anyone's attention when I need it, but I'm also encouraged to work independently so that I can hone my skills as a scientist."

Kyle Godbey, 2020 PhD Graduate

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

Our department endeavors to make an environment where equity, diversity and inclusion are inseparable from institutional excellence and to model intentional practices that respect the humanity of all. We work to promote environments that are welcoming, equitable, inclusive and diverse to foster a sense of belonging, with the goal of advancing human potential and growth.

