

Observatories

NMSU is strategically located near several prominent astronomical observatories, each contributing significantly to various fields of research.

Tortugas Mountain Observatory (TMO)

Las Cruces, NM

Managed by NMSU, TMO is utilized for undergraduate education, small research projects, and monitoring variable stars. The observatory operates both remotely and autonomously, supporting the American Association of Variable Star Observers.

Apache Point Observatory (APO)

Sunspot, NM

Integral to the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) and operated by the Astrophysical Research Consortium (ARC), APO hosts multiple telescopes including the 3.5m ARC telescope and the 2.5m Sloan Foundation Telescope. The observatory is an integral to the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) which has been mapping the universe since 2000.

Very Large Array (VLA)

Socorro, NM

Operated by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), the VLA is a premier radio astronomy observatory comprising 27 radio antennas. It conducts cutting-edge research on astronomical phenomena such as black holes, pulsars, and cosmic magnetic fields, providing critical insights into the universe's structure and evolution.

Clyde Tombaugh Observatory

Las Cruces, NM

Located on NMSU's main campus, this facility serves as a hub for teaching and public outreach. It hosts open house events during the academic year, allowing students and the public to engage in astronomy through direct observation and educational programs.



DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICS



Our Mission

The mission of the Physics program at New Mexico State University is to offer a degree preparing our graduating students for careers in a variety of scientific and technical areas as well as for graduate study in physics and related fields.

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MSC 3D

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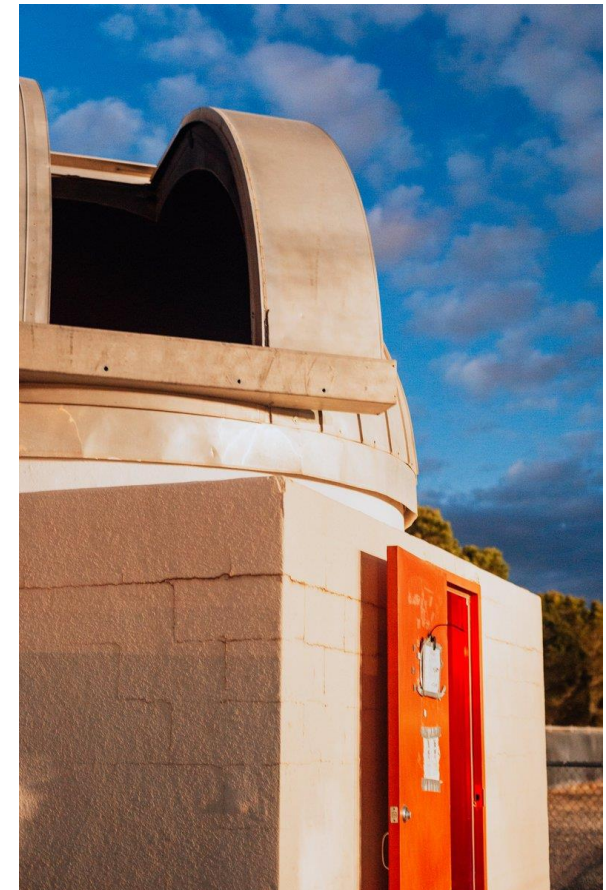
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Discover Your Passion for the Stars at NMSU!



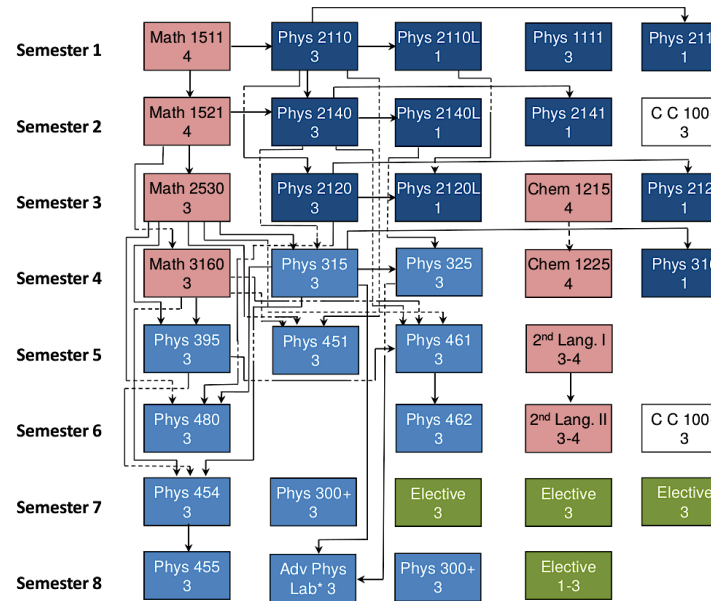
Launch Your Cosmic Journey

Are you captivated by the mysteries of the universe? Home to Pluto's discoverer Clyde Tombaugh, New Mexico State University (NMSU) is the perfect place to launch your journey into astronomy and astrophysics.

Situated in the Land of Enchantment, NMSU boasts access to world-class observatories, breathtaking night skies, and a rich legacy in space science. With hands-on research opportunities, rigorous coursework, and mentorship from faculty engaged in groundbreaking astrophysical studies, you'll find everything you need to spark your passion and achieve your academic goals.

Whether your interests lie in studying exoplanets, stellar evolution, or cosmology, you'll find the tools, mentorship and inspiration you need to pursue your dreams.

Physics Major



Astronomy Minor

Introduction to Astronomy Lecture & Lab
ASTR 1115G

The Planets Lecture & Lab
ASTR 1120G

Revolutionary Ideas in Astronomy
ASTR 301V

The Search for Life in the Universe
ASTR 305V

Into the Final Frontier
ASTR 308V

Topics in Modern Astrophysics
ASTR 401

Astronomical Observations & Techniques
ASTR 402



The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences is an engine for economic and community development in New Mexico, improving the lives of New Mexicans through academic, research, and Extension programs.