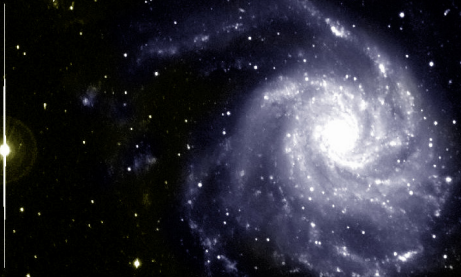


Why Study Astronomy?



the spiral galaxy Messier 101, observed with the CWRU Burrell Schmidt Telescope

From early times; people have looked up to the night sky and wondered about the the nature of stars and humankind's place in the universe. Perhaps the oldest science, astronomy seeks to answer these questions and more: how do stars work? what are other planets like? how did the universe begin? are we alone in the universe? Today, astronomy is a field of intense activity, with new answers and even newer questions coming from a wide variety of ground- and space-based telescopes and supercomputer simulations of stars, galaxies and the universe as a whole.

Courses in the Astronomy Department are meant to bring this excitement and wonder to students of all interests and backgrounds. Introductory courses focus on how astronomers study the skies, and give students a "grand tour" of the planets, stars, and galaxies that make up our universe. More technical courses delve deeper into topics such as stellar physics, galaxy formation, and astronomical instrumentation. Students majoring in astronomy typically become involved with departmental research projects, working on cutting-edge astrophysical problems.

Many of our majors go on to graduate school, the next step in a career in astrophysical research. Others have become involved in science education and outreach at schools and museums around the country, or used their strong physics and computing experience in jobs such as medical imaging design or multimedia applications.

For more information, see the American Astronomical Society's brochure "Careers in Astronomy", at <http://www.aas.org/education/career.html>

Resources

Telescopes



Kitt Peak Station

The CWRU Department of Astronomy owns and operates the 24/36" Burrell Schmidt telescope located at Kitt Peak National Observatory near Tucson, AZ. This telescope is used for deep wide-field imaging of galaxies and galaxy clusters, and of stars in the Milky Way.

Nassau Station

The Nassau Station located in nearby Chardon, OH houses a 0.9 m reflector which is remote operation capable. Currently supported at the Station is CCD direct imaging and stellar photometry. The Station is used in support of both education and research programs.



Computing

The department maintains a Windows/Linux computer lab for student use, and is home of a 56-processor parallel Linux Beowulf cluster used for supercomputer simulations of galaxies and galaxy clusters.

Department of Astronomy
5th floor, Sears Building
Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44106
ph: 216.368.3728



the core of the Virgo galaxy cluster, observed with the CWRU Burrell Schmidt telescope

Case Western Reserve University

Department of Astronomy Warner and Swasey Observatory

undergraduate program