The Applied Physics program includes faculty from physics and astronomy, chemistry, materials science, electrical and computer engineering, bioengineering, chemical and biomolecular engineering, statistics, biosciences, computational and applied mathematics, and earth science.

A joint effort of both the natural sciences and the engineering schools at Rice where the application of physics principles is beneficial, and overseen by the Smalley-Curl Institute (SCI), the Applied Physics Program (APP) is administered by a committee composed of members from the participating departments mentioned above. The objective is to provide an interdisciplinary graduate education in the basic science that underlies important technology. The faculty believes that the experience obtained by performing research at the intellectually stimulating interface of physical science and engineering is particularly effective in producing graduates who succeed in careers based on new and emerging technologies.

Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the program, students can involve virtually any of the research facilities in either the natural sciences or engineering schools of Rice University. The Applied Physics Curriculum and Admissions Committee (APCAC) urges prospective students to contact individual departments or SCI for detailed descriptions of research facilities and ongoing research projects.

Applied Physics does not currently offer an academic program at the undergraduate level.

Master's Program
- Master of Science (MS) Degree in the field of Applied Physics*

Doctoral Program
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in the field of Applied Physics (ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/interdisciplinary/applied-physics/applied-physics-phd)

* Although students are not normally admitted to a Master of Science (MS) degree program, graduate students must earn the MS as they work toward the PhD.

Chair, Applied Physics Graduate Program
Kevin F. Kelly

Director, Smalley-Curl Institute
Naomi Halas
• Degree Program for Applied Physics students in Materials Science and NanoEngineering: APMS
• Degree Program for Applied Physics students in Mechanical Engineering: APME
• Degree Program for Applied Physics students in Physics: APPH
• Degree Program for Applied Physics students in Statistics: APST
• Degree Program offered to students in Applied Physics (1st year students only): APPL