The Applied Physics Graduate Program (APP) is a joint effort of the Wiess School of Natural Sciences and the George R. Brown School of Engineering, under the auspices of the Office of Research and overseen by the Smalley-Curl Institute (SCI). The program seeks to provide a truly interdisciplinary graduate education. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the program, students can utilize research facilities in either the natural sciences or engineering schools of Rice University, as well as institutions in the Texas Medical Center.

Through rigorous coursework, APP students acquire a solid background in physics, including quantum mechanics, solid-state physics, electrodynamics, and statistical mechanics. Students then use their knowledge in physics to address and solve cutting-edge applied research problems. Currently, APP students are actively conducting research in photonics and plasmonics, nanomaterials and nanodevices, quantum science and engineering, neuroengineering and biotechnology, and theory and computation.

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 (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/interdisciplinary/applied-physics/applied-physics-phd/)

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

Chair, Applied Physics Graduate Program

Junichiro Kono

Director, Smalley-Curl Institute

Alberto Pimpinelli

Note: Applied Physics (APP) advisors include or have included faculty from the departments of Bioengineering; Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering; Chemistry; Computation and Applied Mathematics; Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences; Electrical and Computer Engineering; Materials Science and Nanoengineering; Mechanical Engineering; Physics and Astronomy; and Statistics, as well as faculty at the Texas Medical Center. A list of faculty currently acting as advisors of APP students may be found at the Current Advisors tab of the Applied Physics website (https://appliedphysics.rice.edu/people/advisors/).

For Rice University degree-granting programs:
To view the list of official course offerings, please see Rice's Course Catalog (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)
To view the most recent semester's course schedule, please see Rice's Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat)

Applied Physics (APPL)

APPL 490 - RQI - REU SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM
Short Title: UNDERGRAD SUMMER RESEARCH-REU
Department: Applied Physics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Research
Credit Hours: 1-6
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Research experience under supervision of graduate students and faculty. Summer semester only. Department Permission Required.

APPL 500 - INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED PHYSICS
Short Title: INTRO APPL PHYS
Department: Applied Physics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture/Laboratory
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This is a required course for first-year students in the Applied Physics Graduate Program (APP), introducing them to the multidisciplinary research field of applied physics and facilitating their laboratory affiliation process. Through a series of tutorial lectures, students will acquire familiarity with cutting-edge research topics in various subfields of applied physics, including quantum information engineering, low-dimensional materials, ultracold atoms, nanophotonics, plasmonics and metamaterials, and neuroengineering. Furthermore, students will gain hands-on research experience in trial projects provided by different laboratories in APP through mini-rotations (3 weeks per laboratory). The primary goal of this course is to assist first-year APP students to find Ph.D. advisors by the end of the fall semester so they can start Ph.D. research in the spring semester. Additionally, this course aims to provide first-year APP students with an opportunity to develop a genuine camaraderie within the cohort by spending time together. Furthermore, each first-year student will be mentored by a senior APP student throughout the semester to get fully integrated into the program and the Rice community. Recommended Prerequisite(s): Understanding of undergraduate-level classical and quantum mechanics, electromagnetism, statistical mechanics, and solid-state physics.
APPL 677 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Applied Physics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Independent Study, Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Seminar, Lecture/Laboratory
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate or Visiting Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

APPL 750 - INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INTERNSHIP
Short Title: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INTERN
Department: Applied Physics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Research internship in a foreign laboratory at institutes and universities in Mainz, Germany and Toulouse, France. Department Permission Required.

APPL 800 - RESEARCH AND THESIS
Short Title: RESEARCH AND THESIS
Department: Applied Physics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Research
Credit Hours: 1-15
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Thesis research under the supervision of faculty. Repeatable for Credit.

Description and Code Legend
Note: Internally, the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:

Course Catalog/Schedule
• Course offerings/subject codes: Courses from various subjects may apply towards this program

Department (or Program) Description and Code
• Applied Physics: APPL

Graduate Degree Descriptions and Codes
• Master of Science degree: MS
• Doctor of Philosophy degree: PhD

Graduate Degree Program Descriptions and Codes
• Degree Program for Applied Physics students in Bioengineering: APBI
• Degree Program for Applied Physics students in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering: APCB
• Degree Program for Applied Physics students in Chemistry: APCH
• Degree Program for Applied Physics students in Computational and Applied Mathematics: APCA
• Degree Program for Applied Physics students in Earth Science: APEA
• Degree Program for Applied Physics students in Electrical Engineering: APEL
• 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

CIP Code and Description ¹
• APBI Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 14.1201 - Engineering Physics/Applied Physics
• APCB Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 14.1201 - Engineering Physics/Applied Physics
• APCB Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 14.1201 - Engineering Physics/Applied Physics
• APCH Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 40.0899 - Physics, Other
• APEA Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 40.0899 - Physics, Other
• APEL Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 14.1201 - Engineering Physics/Applied Physics
• APME Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 14.1201 - Engineering Physics/Applied Physics
• APMS Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 14.1201 - Engineering Physics/Applied Physics
• APPH Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 40.0899 - Physics, Other
• APPL Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 40.0899 - Physics, Other
• APST Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 14.1201 - Engineering Physics/Applied Physics

¹ Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2020 Codes and Descriptions from the National Center for Education Statistics: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/