5 MYTHS ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS

Produced by:

APS physics
AAPT
STEP UP

Joseph Brian Holmes
Physics Grad Student
MYTH
You have to be naturally good at physics and math to be successful in high school physics.

FACT
Physics is taught at many different levels\(^1\), including classes that introduce physics topics and allow students to build problem-solving skills.

"The first semester was really hard, being surrounded by classmates who had taken AP Physics in high school, but I enjoyed the material. I went on to do predictive modeling and now work at an executive search and leadership advisory firm."

Meghan Anzelc, PhD
Chief Analytics Officer
FACT

Colleges want to see that students have challenged themselves. Taking physics in high school demonstrates that you’re well rounded, willing to take on challenges in the future, and actually prepares you for college/post-high school success\(^2\).

MYTH

Taking high school physics won’t help you get into college, especially if you don’t get perfect grades.

Talat Rahman
University Professor
Physics opens doors to a wide variety of highly paid careers. Physics majors have high employment rates and are among the best paid of all college graduates while doing jobs that positively impact society.

**MYTH**

Physics is only necessary for people who want to become teachers or work in a lab.

**FACT**

Physics Bachelors Skills that are Valued by Employers

- Ability to easily grasp new knowledge and concepts
- Identifying, formulating, and solving problems
- Successfully analyzing and interpreting data
- Experienced with computer applications and databases
- Ability to use current techniques/tools for technical practices
- Ability to engage in continued learning and problem solving
Myth

Only certain types of people can do physics. You have to “look” like a physicist to study it in high school.

Fact

Physics is for everyone and anyone who is willing to give it a try.
MYTH
Physics has little relevance to the real world and taking it would be a waste of time.

FACT
Physics answers questions about the world that no other field can answer, and is fundamental to other fields’ and major advancements.

This is what you can do with a physics degree:

- Biomedical Engineer
- Medical Doctor
- Science Writer
- Environmental Scientist
- Environmental Transportation Scientist
- YouTuber
- Education Policy Advocate
- Health Data Analyst
- Policy Advocate
- And lots more!