The University Honors Program offers highly motivated and advanced students the opportunity to engage in rigorous honors-designated coursework, interdisciplinary seminars, internships, extended research and creative projects, and community service. Most students entering the honors program will do so upon admission to the university. Admission is based on screenings by the admissions office including consideration of high school GPA, standardized test scores, and rigor of high school curriculum. The program offers small courses that develop students’ intellectual potential.

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The interdisciplinary science studies major at UMW prepares students to become science educators. The majors work in a broad range of topics – from pure areas like analysis and algebra to applied areas like mathematical modeling and information theory. Small classes may work on original mathematics, present their work at professional meetings, and even have their work published. Career opportunities for a mathematician trained in numerical techniques, modeling, applied analysis, or statistics are very promising. This is due to the extensive application of mathematical modeling via computer simulation in physics, chemistry, space technology, economics, business management, finance, statistical analysis, operations research, medical research, and environmental science.

Physics majors at UMW are intellectually curious students who seek to understand fundamental science and scientific principles. They learn about the natural world through observation and experimentation, and they develop critical thinking skills through problem-solving and scientific inquiry. They learn to communicate effectively and work in multidisciplinary roles. The expanding fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) continually need talented and technically adept professionals. To stay competitive in the global economy and to fuel the innovation needed to solve world problems, however, these individuals must also possess the ability to think critically, work in teams, and communicate effectively.

These attributes set UMW science and technology majors apart and make them highly sought-after by many of the top graduate schools in the nation. Recent graduates have been admitted to programs at Princeton, Harvard, Emory, Duke, Yale, Cornell, the University of Virginia, and Pennsylvania State University.

This brochure will introduce you to UMW degrees and programs within the fields of STEM. You will also find descriptions of work environments or careers that each degree may lead to. Regardless of the major you choose, the University of Mary Washington can help you meet your academic and professional goals.