
Mathematics and Physics

Simon Whitehouse, Chair
Phone: 607-587-4265
Administrative Assistant Phone: 607-587-4265
Email: whitehs@alfredstate.edu

The Mathematics and Physics Department offers a variety of courses, including pre-algebra, algebra, trigonometry, statistics, calculus, differential equations, astronomy, physics, and physical science. Students are recommended for placement in mathematics on the basis of their high school preparation and their placement test score. The department faculty serve as advisers for students majoring in the areas of mathematics and/or science and for those in the pre-environmental science and forestry programs. They also serve as advisers for undeclared majors. Physics and physical science courses develop within the student an understanding of basic physical principles and an appreciation of the natural environment. Technical programs require a firm foundation in fundamental physics. To that end, courses also encourage and develop the student's competence in the use of logical procedures in problem solving. Math courses are taught to develop students' abilities in logical reasoning, problem solving, and critical thinking, as well as to build algebraic reasoning and calculus skills.

MISSION

Provides mathematics and physics foundation courses for engineering and engineering technology students. The department also provides general education mathematics and natural science courses for all students.

FACILITIES

- **Physics labs** – These labs are well equipped with apparatus to facilitate learning by direct experience and to provide students with an opportunity to discover many principles on their own. The laboratory instructor is a member of the regular teaching staff and, in most cases, is the same instructor the student has for the physics lecture session. Facilities include a linear air track, lasers, air table, X-ray recorders, gamma spectrometers, oscilloscopes, precision electrical measuring devices, strobe lights, precision timers, and an 8-inch Cassegrain telescope, as well as a large collection of traditional physics apparatus, many of which are used directly by the students in their laboratory work.

DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

[Liberal Arts and Sciences: Math and Science \(AA\)](#)
[Pre-Environmental Science and Forestry \(AA\)](#)