A Physicist in Industry
career advice

• Follow your interests (curiosity)
• Acquire the right tools
• Think outside the box
• Be persistent
• Network
• Be flexible
Field of Graduate Study for Physics Bachelors One Year After Degree, Classes of 2013 & 2014 Combined

Physics or Astronomy 59%

Engineering 20%

Other 21%

Mathematics
Medicine
Education
Physical Sciences
Computer Science
Social Sciences
Law
Business
Humanities
Other
Physics jobs in industry

See: http://www.aip.org/statistics/trends/career.html
Qualities for success

- Core competency
- Communication
- Tools
- Customer focus
- Experience
- Curiosity
- People skills
- Creativity
- Breadth
- Judgment
- Vision
- Trainability
- Mobility
- Flexibility
- Enthusiasm
- Mentoring
- Teamwork

Networking!
Must have useful skill

30 years ago:

- Problem solver
- Inventive
- Optics
- Electronics MHz
- Fortran Programming

Now:

- Problem solver
- Inventive
- Analytics data mining
- Python
- Optics, Electronics GHz
Physics jobs in IT industry

Combine physicist’s problem solving and programming talents

Google
Many physicists in industry, such as myself, become "firefighters": because of their diversified knowledge basis, they can attack just about any problem and help get programs back on track.

I have fought technical problems, hardware problems, software problems, and even administrative problems. I assure you, I am never bored!

I fight fires in my spare time just for fun!

Kathy Kirby works for Hughes in Colorado