

Title: Modernizing Undergraduate Physics Programs

Abstract: As a discipline, physics has traditionally placed tremendous emphasis on the “academic path,” which steers students from an undergraduate physics degree into a physics Ph.D. program with the expectation of a research career as a faculty member. Although this path still exists, a small minority of students will follow this path all the way through to a tenure-track faculty position. As the landscape of higher education changes rapidly, from sources of funding to student attitudes, it is necessary for physics departments to rethink their emphasis on academic careers. In this colloquium, we will discuss what departments can do to better serve their students.