

Astronomy Minor

The Dominey Observatory will open and expand services

Goal Description:

The new Dominey Observatory is expected to complete initial construction and open doors to students and the public in the Fall of 2023.

Our goal is to use the observatory effectively for outreach, education, and science work. This requires establishing a full-time directorship and funding additional development at the site.

Providing Department: Astronomy Minor

Progress: Ongoing

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Readiness for continuing education in astronomy

Learning Objective Description:

Students graduating with the Astronomy Minor in conjunction with the Physics Major will be well-prepared to continue with graduate study in the discipline of Astronomy.

They will be familiar with foundational concepts in Solar System and Stellar / Galactic Astronomy.

They will have been exposed to contemporary advanced topics in astronomy relating to high-energy "Cosmic Catastrophes" and the conditions for Life in the Universe.

They will be experienced in the methodology of astronomical data collection and processing, including the operation of modern scientific telescope.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicators for success in the minor.

Indicator Description:

Indicators for success in the minor are related to growing enrollment and interest in the program.

Criterion Description:

The initial target for students enrolling in the Astronomy Minor is ten new students per year.

Findings Description:

Per conversation with the Dean's office, findings will be deferred until additional data is available for the new program.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Observatory Funding Actions

Action Description:

The faculty will partner with the Research and Sponsored Programs Office to pursue external federal funding for operation and development of the new observatory, student education, and outreach.

New Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

New unit for 2022-23; no previous PCI

The Astronomy Minor enrolled about 10 students in its first class, and the pair of new upper-division courses were successfully instructed by Professors James and Miller.

Per communication with COSET Dean's office, further assessment will be deferred for a year, pending the collection of additional experience with the new program.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

New unit for 2022-23; no previous PCI

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

The Astronomy Minor enrolled about 10 students in its first class, and the pair of new upper-division courses were successfully instructed by Professors James and Miller.

Per communication with COSET Dean's office, further meta-assessment will be deferred for a year, pending the collection of additional experience with the new program.