

F25.19: Compositions of Asteroids and Kuiper Belt Objects Through Telescopic

Overview

The goal of the project is to assess compositions of small bodies throughout the Solar System. The student will learn to reduce astronomical data that has been measured previously and will have the opportunity to help make new observations.

What the student will DO and LEARN

The student will learn to work with astronomical data and how to use large research telescopes to collect data. The student will reduce data and analyze them to determine compositions of small Solar System bodies (e.g., asteroids) and will participate in observing. These skills are critical for anyone interested in a career in astronomy.

Additional benefits

The student will interact with my research group. Seeing engaged graduate students and working with colleagues external to NAU generally helps undergraduates see a path forward for themselves. The student may have the opportunity to attend and present at a professional scientific conference.

Additional qualifications

Familiarity with astronomy, particularly the Solar System, would be helpful. Some knowledge of computer programming would also be useful.

Time commitment

5 hrs/week for 30 weeks