

Crow Observatory

Directions:

To reach the observatory, take the stairs at the entrance to Crow (next to room 201) to the third floor. Turn left and walk a short distance to a narrow stairway up to the fourth floor. At the top of those stairs take two right turns and then climb the spiral stairway. Watch your head when you get to the top of the stairs if you are taller than 6 feet. Sign in the visitor log on the table at the top of the stairs, and then go out through the low door onto the roof.

Suggestions for objects to look at:

If they are in the sky at the time you go, the following are always fun to see:

- The Moon
- Saturn
- Venus
- Jupiter
- Mars

Other interesting objects to look at:

- The following two stars in the constellation Orion: Betelgeuse (Orion's right shoulder — on our left since he is facing us!), and Rigel (Orion's left foot — on our right). It should be easy to tell which of the two is a Red Giant and which is a normal (bluish) star.
- The Orion Nebula. This cloud of gas is a “stellar nursery,” from which stars are currently being formed. Some of the brightest stars in the nebula may be as young as 10,000 years old. On very clear nights you may see various beautiful colors in the cloud.
- The Pleiades (Seven Sisters) is a cluster of hot blue stars that have formed relatively recently. On a reasonable observing night, you should be able to see the hot gas and dust that the stars are passing through.