

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PHYSICS CURRICULUM GUIDE

Requirements effective for Fall 2024

The BA degree in physics requires a minimum of **38 credits in physics** (without PHY 100), CHY 121/123, ENG 101, and **15 credits in mathematics**. In addition, the student must take 60 credits of additional electives (18 of which are the minimum to satisfy the University's General Education requirements), for a total of 120 credits.

Below are two sample curricula, the first showing how a typical student can complete the requirements with physics courses spread out over four years, and the second designed for the student who decides to major in physics in the sophomore year. There are many other possible arrangements; usually the student will design an individualized program with an advisor from the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Sample #1 PHYSICS CURRICULUM

FIRST YEAR

<u>FALL SEMESTER</u>			<u>SPRING SEMESTER</u>		
Course		Credits	Course		Credits
PHY 121	Physics for Engineers & Physical Scientists I OR	4	PHY 122	Physics for Engineers & Physical Scientists II OR	4
PHY 111	General Physics I		PHY 112	General Physics II	
ENG 101	College Composition	3	MAT 127	Calculus II	4
MAT 126	Calculus I	4	COS 125	Intro. to Problem Solving Using Computer Programming	4
PHY 100	Intro to Physics & Astronomy HV/SC & E Elective I ¹	1 3		HV/SC & E Elective ¹ or Elective	3
	Total Credits	15		Total Credits	15

SECOND YEAR

<u>FALL SEMESTER</u>			<u>SPRING SEMESTER</u>		
Course		Credits	Course		Credits
PHY 200	Career Prep in Phys & EP I	1	PHY 223	Special Relativity	1
PHY 236	Introductory Quantum Physics	3	PHY 231	Mathematical Methods in Physics	3
PHY 261	Physical Measurements Laboratory	2	PHY 241	Computational Physics	3
MAT 228	Calculus III	4	PHY 262	Electronics	2
CHY 121	Intro. to Chemistry	3	MAT 259	Differential Equations	3
CHY 123	Intro. to Chemistry Lab.	1		HV/SC & E Elective ¹ or Elective	3
	Total Credits	14		Total Credits	15

THIRD YEAR

<u>FALL SEMESTER</u>			<u>SPRING SEMESTER</u>		
Course		Credits	Course		Credits
PHY 364 ²	Modern Experimental Physics Lab.	2	PHY 365 ²	Mechanics Laboratory	2
PHY 451	Mechanics	3		Physics Elective	3
PHY 454	Electricity & Magnetism I HV/SC & E Elective(s) ¹ and/or Elective(s) and/or Physics Elective(s)	3 6-7		HV/SC & E Elective(s) ¹ and/or Electives and/or Physics Elective(s)	9-10
	Total Credits	14-15		Total Credits	14-15

FOURTH YEAR

<u>FALL SEMESTER</u>			<u>SPRING SEMESTER</u>		
Course		Credits	Course		Credits
PHY 400	Career Prep in Phys & EP II	1		HV/SC & E Elective(s) ¹ and/or Elective(s) and/or Physics Elective(s)	15
PHY 481	Project Lab in Phys. I HV/SC & E Elective(s) ¹ and/or Elective(s) and/or Physics Elective(s)	3 12			
	Total Credits	16		Total Credits	15

Minimum Total Credits in the BA in Physics Program: 120

The following curriculum is designed for those students who desire a degree in physics but who wish greater breadth in background in other areas of science—such as biological, chemical, earth, or environmental sciences. The program outlined below enables a student to begin a major in physics during the sophomore year.

Sample #2 PHYSICS CURRICULUM

FIRST YEAR

<u>FALL SEMESTER</u>			<u>SPRING SEMESTER</u>		
Course		Credits	Course		Credits
ENG 101	College Composition	3		HV/SC & E Elective II ¹	3
	HV/SC & E Elective I ¹	3		Electives	12
	Electives	9			
	Total Credits	15		Total Credits	15

SECOND YEAR

<u>FALL SEMESTER</u>			<u>SPRING SEMESTER</u>		
Course		Credits	Course		Credits
PHY 200	Career Prep in Phys & EP I	1	PHY 122	Physics for Engineers & Physical Scientists II	4
PHY 121	Physics for Engineers & Physical Scientists I	4		OR	
	OR			PHY 112	General Physics II
PHY 111	General Physics I	4	MAT 127	Calculus II	4
MAT 126	Calculus I	4	COS 125	Intro. to Problem Solving Using Computer Programming	4
CHY 121	Intro. to Chemistry	3		HV/SC & E Elective IV ¹	3
CHY 123	Intro. to Chemistry Lab.	1			
	HV/SC & E Elective III ¹	3			
	Total Credits	16		Total Credits	15

THIRD YEAR

<u>FALL SEMESTER</u>			<u>SPRING SEMESTER</u>		
Course		Credits	Course		Credits
PHY 236	Intro. Quantum Physics	3	PHY 223	Special Relativity	1
PHY 261	Physical Measurements Laboratory	2	PHY 231	Mathematical Methods in Physics	3
MAT 228	Calculus III	4	PHY 241	Computational Physics	3
	HV/SC & E Elective ¹ or Elective or Physics Elective(s)	6	PHY 262	Electronics	2
			MAT 259	Differential Equations	3
				HV/SC & E Elective ¹ or Elective or Physics Elective	3
	Total Credits	15		Total Credits	15

FOURTH YEAR

<u>FALL SEMESTER</u>			<u>SPRING SEMESTER</u>		
Course		Credits	Course		Credits
PHY 400	Career Prep in Phys & EP II	1	PHY 365 ²	Mechanics Laboratory	2
PHY 364 ²	Modern Experimental Physics Lab.	2		HV/SC & E Elective(s) ¹ and/or Electives and/or Physics Elective(s)	13
PHY 451	Mechanics	3			
PHY 454	Electricity & Magnetism I	3			
PHY 481	Project Lab in Phys. I	3			
	HV/SC & E Elective ¹ or Elective or Physics Elective	3			
	Total Credits	15		Total Credits	15

Minimum Total Credits in the BA in Physics Program: 120

Notes

- Human Values/ Social Context and Ethics (HV/SC & E), part of the University General Education Requirement, can be satisfied by a careful selection of at least six three-credit courses.

2. Two writing intensive courses are required to satisfy the University's General Education Requirement. A student must choose one of the following options:
 - A. Take both PHY 364 and PHY 365;
 - B. Take either PHY 364 or PHY 365 and another writing intensive course outside the major.

Additional Program Requirements

1. The 38 credits in physics (above PHY 100) must include PHY 121 and PHY 122 (or PHY 111 and PHY 112); PHY 200, PHY 223, PHY 236, PHY 261; PHY 241, PHY 262, PHY 231; PHY 364 or PHY 365; PHY 451, PHY 454; PHY 400 and PHY 481. It must also include at least one 400-level course chosen from AST 451, PHY 447, PHY 455, PHY 463, PHY 469, PHY 470, PHY 472 and PHY 480. First-year students must also take PHY 100.
2. The 15 credits of mathematics must include MAT 126, MAT 127, MAT 228, and MAT 259, or their equivalents.
3. Elective courses must include
 - A. those necessary to satisfy the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences BA requirements, *including either a double major or a minor in addition to the Physics BA*;
 - B. 6 credits of approved science, engineering, or mathematics electives.
4. A minimum of 72 credits must be outside the major.

PHYSICS ELECTIVES

Course		FALL SEMESTER Credits
PHY 469	Quantum & Atomic Physics	3
PHY 472	Geometric and Fourier Optics	3
PHY 473	Modern Optics Laboratory (not regularly offered)	1-2
PHY 480	Physics of Materials	3
PHY 496	Field Experience in Physics	1-6
PHY 501	Mechanics (graduate)	3
PHY 574	Methods of Mathematical Physics (graduate)	3
Course		SPRING SEMESTER Credits
PHY 224	Special Relativity Laboratory	1-3
PHY 447	Molecular Biophysics (every other year, even years)	3
PHY 455	Electricity and Magnetism II	3
PHY 463	Statistical Mechanics	3
PHY 470	Nuclear Physics (not regularly offered)	2
PHY 471	Nuclear Physics Laboratory (not regularly offered)	1
PHY 496	Field Experience in Physics	1-6
AST 451	Astrophysics I (every other year, odd years)	1-3

A student preparing for graduate work in physics is advised to take PHY 469, Quantum & Atomic Physics and some or all of the following electives in his or her junior or senior year: PHY 463, Statistical Mechanics; PHY 470, Nuclear Physics; PHY 480, Physics of Materials; as well as additional courses in mathematics.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PHYSICS STUDENT RECORD

	<u>CR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
PHY 100	1	_____	_____
PHY 121	4	_____	_____
(or PHY 111)			
PHY 122	4	_____	_____
(or PHY 112)			
PHY 200	1	_____	_____
PHY 223	1	_____	_____
PHY 231	3	_____	_____
PHY 236	3	_____	_____
PHY 241	3	_____	_____
PHY 261	2	_____	_____
PHY 262	2	_____	_____
PHY 364	2	_____	_____
or PHY 365			
PHY 400	1	_____	_____
PHY 451	3	_____	_____
PHY 454	3	_____	_____
PHY 481	3	_____	_____
PHY _____			
PHY _____			
PHY _____			
PHY _____			
SUBTOTAL	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	(38 credits minimum without PHY 100)	

ELECTIVES (must satisfy BA requirements in CLAS and 6 in science)

Sci			
Elec _____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Free			
Elec _____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
SUBTOTAL	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total credits must be 120 or greater.

TOTAL ALL =

TOTAL GPA IN MAJOR = **(2.00 MINIMUM)**

	<u>CR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
MAT 126	4	_____	_____
MAT 127	4	_____	_____
MAT 228	4	_____	_____
MAT 259	3	_____	_____
MAT _____			
MAT _____			
(or PHY 574	3	_____	_____)
SUBTOTAL	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	(15 credits minimum)	

GEN ED REQUIREMENTS (AREA)

	<u>CR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
1 _____	_____	_____	_____
2 _____	_____	_____	_____
3 _____	_____	_____	_____
4 _____	_____	_____	_____
5 _____	_____	_____	_____
6 _____	_____	_____	_____
7 _____	_____	_____	_____

SUBTOTAL (18 credits minimum)

GEN ED AREAS:

- a. Western Cultural Tradition
- b. Social Contexts & Institutions
- c. Cultural Diversity & International Perspectives
- d. Population & the Environment
- e. Artistic and Creative Expression
- f. Ethics

Writing Intensive requirement satisfied by

_____ and _____.

OTHER COURSES

	<u>CR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
CHY 121	3	_____	_____
CHY 123	1	_____	_____
ENG 101	3	_____	_____

SUBTOTAL	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		

Credits outside of major (72 credits minimum) =

TOTAL GPA = **(2.00 MINIMUM)**