

Undergraduate Physics Degree Programs (2017-18)

Physics is concerned with the most basic principles that underlie all phenomena in the universe. Physicists ask, “How does the world work?” They search for the most elementary particles; they seek understanding of the behavior of collections of particles ranging from quarks in nuclei and electrons in atoms to stars in galaxies; they strive for insights into the nature of space and time, and they explore the behavior of matter and energy. On a more human scale, physicists study an enormous range of topics including all the devices of modern electronics, complex biological molecules, the atmosphere, and all forms of energy and its uses. Physics is the basis for much of engineering and technology. Studying physics prepares some students to push back the boundaries of knowledge in this most fundamental of the natural sciences. For others it provides training in the concepts and methods of science for application in many professional areas, and for many it gives a more substantial basis for understanding many aspects of modern society.

The Major Program in Physics is planned to serve students with a broad spectrum of interests and objectives. The department offers both Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees. In addition, there is a joint Astronomy/Physics BS. The basic BA is designed for students interested in physics and planning to enter professional schools in business, education, law, and medicine, and for liberal arts students desiring a strong background in physical science but with career objectives in other areas. Students planning graduate study in physics or physics related areas or preparing to enter jobs in a scientific or technical field should elect the BS or the BA with a Distinguished Major course sequence, or for astronomy or astrophysics, the Astronomy/Physics BS. These programs provide intensive preparation in physics.

The Minor Program in Physics is intended mainly for students with a strong interest in the subject who do not have the time to commit to the mathematics and physics course load required for the major.

If you are curious about how a physics degree may fit your interests, please contact one of the physics undergraduate advisers listed below to learn about the various possibilities and to design a program to fit your specific needs. No prerequisite classes have to be taken before a Physics Major or Minor is declared.

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In the sections that follow we give some information about the department and its activities, describe the requirements for the various degrees, and show some typical course sequences leading to the degrees.

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¹ High Energy Physics Building: building 10 on <http://www.virginia.edu/webmap/HStadiumHereford.html>

² Physical and Life Sciences building: see <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Physical-and-Life-Sciences-Building/185411224909105>

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE PHYSICS PROGRAM

Physics majors are a very outstanding, enthusiastic and diverse group. During the last years, an average of 50 students has graduated each year with bachelor's degrees in Physics. There is a wide diversity of interests, and many students have double majors. Second majors have included anthropology, biology, chemistry, economics, English, environmental science, French, German language and literature, government, history, mathematics, music, philosophy, psychology, religious studies, Slavic languages and literature, and studio art.

Approximately half of our BS Physics and BS Astronomy-Physics majors go on to graduate or professional schools, most at top-ranked universities, and they are very successful there. Recent graduates have attended the University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Santa Barbara, Cal Tech, Chicago, Colorado, Cornell, Dartmouth, Duke, Georgia Tech, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Michigan, MIT, Princeton, Stanford and Yale. Many recent graduates have taken scientific or technical positions in industry or government immediately after graduating with a bachelor's degree. Each year several go to professional schools in medicine, education, business and law. Others graduate with Physics as a concentration in a broad liberal arts program and enter a variety of careers.

Beginning the first year there are special courses for Physics majors. The third and fourth year classes are small, and students have much interaction with faculty members. Since the Department has active research programs in all the major fields of Physics that involve all 34 faculty members, there are many opportunities for undergraduates to participate in research on the frontiers of Physics. Students are encouraged to participate in research starting in the summer following their second year. During their third or fourth years, students in the Distinguished Major and BS programs undertake research projects (PHYS 3995), working on a tutorial basis with a faculty member and often working with a research group. The study culminates in a written and possibly an oral report. Students find these projects among the most valuable and enjoyable parts of their programs. Also there are summer jobs and part-time jobs during the academic year with the various research groups. An Intermediate Lab course (PHYS 3170 or 3180) is often taken after a student has begun doing research in order to provide exposure to a broader range of experimental techniques.

In addition to the undergraduate courses, many graduate courses in Physics may be taken by advanced undergraduates. Undergraduate students are encouraged to take advantage of the weekly colloquia. These talks are given by eminent physicists from around the world. They provide further contact with research on the frontiers of Physics.

All Physics majors are expected to become proficient in the use of computers by taking courses and by using computers for coursework and in the research labs. Fundamentals of Scientific Computing (PHYS 2660) introduces some programming concepts and numerical methods. We provide an introduction to data acquisition and analysis in the introductory laboratory courses, an Electronics lab (PHYS 3150), more advanced data acquisition and analysis in the Intermediate Physics Laboratory courses, and many class and laboratory exercises requiring use of computers. As mentioned above, there are courses providing a concentration in computational Physics. In addition a wide variety of computer courses is available through the Computer Science Department and Information Technology Services staff that presents numerous workshops. A departmental computer facility is open to all majors, and there are computers in the undergraduate labs, as well as in research labs in which students participate.

Early declaration of major is encouraged: you do not have to wait until your fourth semester. A valued prerequisite for Physics majors is that all are provided keys to the Physics Building that give them access at any time to the Physics Library, two conference rooms, and the departmental computer facility. Very frequently at night and on weekends one finds groups of Physics majors gathered in one of the conference rooms or the library, working together (as we encourage them to do) on quantum mechanics, statistical physics, or other topics.

Some very interesting facts about the skills Physics graduates find most useful emerged from a recent survey by the American Institute of Physics. They queried some thousands of people with Physics degrees (bachelor's, master's, and doctoral) working in industry, government, and secondary and higher education about the skills they used most frequently. At all degree levels and for all types of jobs, whether directly involving physics or not, almost 100% of respondents said that problem solving is their most frequently used skill. Computer skills were highly ranked by most of the respondents, but even more highly ranked were interpersonal skills and technical writing. These same skills have been identified as most important by many companies who hire physics graduates. We address the development of these skills explicitly in the physics major. Problem solving and computing are already

strong components of the program. The upper-level Physics laboratories and research courses are structured to provide excellent opportunities for developing skills in both oral and written communication of technical material. Spontaneous teamwork on solving problems in the upper-level courses has long been a part of being physics major. Working with a variety of partners in the elementary and upper-level lab courses also helps develop skills in interpersonal relationships. These experiences are supplemented in physics classes by group problem solving, which has been shown to be an effective way of learning new concepts and has the added effect of teaching and encouraging teamwork.

The Society of Physics Students (SPS) and the Sigma Pi Sigma Physics honor society provide very valuable support for the Physics major program. The weekly SPS meetings offer special talks on topics related to physics by faculty members from physics and other departments at the University. There are also presentations devoted to giving advice and commentary on graduate and professional schools, and talks about careers in science. At each meeting there is pizza and time for students to talk to each other and to faculty members who are invited to attend. Membership in SPS is open to any student interested in Physics. Membership in Sigma Pi Sigma recognizes special academic achievement.

There are a number of activities each year intended to help students and faculty get to know each other and to recognize academic achievement. There is an annual reception in the Colonnade Club near the beginning of the fall semester to which all undergraduate majors, students who think they might like to major, and all physics faculty are invited. During this ceremony an award is presented to the graduate with the most outstanding academic record in physics.

Career Planning - In addition to the extensive resources available through University Career Services (UCS), the Physics Department offers assistance with career planning in a number of ways:

- Discussions with undergraduate advisors and other Physics faculty members
- Talks about graduate schools and careers at SPS meetings
- A brochure, "What can I do with a Physics major?"
- Contacts with UVa alumni who are willing to offer career information
- UCS web site, <http://www.virginia.edu/~career/>
- The American Institute of Physics site, <http://aip.org/>

REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) IN PHYSICS

The basic BA is designed for students interested in physics and planning to enter professional schools in business, law, and medicine, and for liberal arts students desiring a strong physics background, but with career objectives in other areas.

There are two options leading to the BA in physics, each having three components:

Option I

- (1) Prerequisites – MATH 1320 and PHYS 1710, 1720.
 - (2) MATH 2310, 3250 and PHYS 2620, 2630, 2640.
 - (3) Three courses chosen from PHYS 2660 and/or 3000-level physics courses.
- The default sequence is shown on page 14.

Option II

- (1) Prerequisites – MATH 1320
 - (2) MATH 2310, 3250 and PHYS 1425, 1429, 2415, 2419, 2620
 - (3) Four courses chosen from PHYS 2660 and/or 3000-level physics courses
- Option II is designed to be appropriate for engineering students desiring an additional major in physics. The default sequence is shown on page 16.

The classification of the courses into prerequisites and requirements, and into components, reflects the order in which classes are taken. Physics courses are more sequential than courses in some other majors. Course descriptions in SIS, or at the department webpage, may list other courses that are expected to be taken earlier (pre-requisites), or concurrently (co-requisites).

Students can substitute APMA 1110 (Single Variable Calculus II) for MATH 1320 (Calculus II), APMA 2120 (Multivariable Calculus) for MATH 2310 (Calculus III), and APMA 2130 (Applied Differential Equations) or MATH 3255 (Ordinary Differential Equations) for MATH 3250 (Ordinary Differential Equations). Electrical and Computer Engineering Students can substitute PHYS 2415 with ECE 3209 (Electromagnetic Fields), but are still required to take PHYS 2419.

For students electing a basic BA program, the courses, PHYS 3110 (Widely Applied Physics), 3120 (Applied Physics: Energy), if elected in component (3), can be used to complete a strong preparation in basic Physics. These courses are designed to make use of the concepts learned in the introductory courses to understand some modern applications with a focus on energy production and use. PHYS 2660 Fundamentals of Scientific Computing is a good choice for completing this component. Students completing the basic BA program have an outstanding record of success in admission to medical, law, business, and education schools.

A grade point average of at least 2.0 for all the required courses with a minimum grade of C- must be achieved for graduation. Required courses are the ones listed as component (2) and (3) above, and their substitutes. The Schools impose other requirements for graduation; e.g. students in the College of Arts and Sciences need to earn a certain number of credits, and, if not Echols scholars, have to fulfill competency and area requirements.

Table I - Requirements for BA in Physics

Prerequisites:

Option I			Option II		
PHYS 1710	Introductory Physics I	[5]			
MATH 1320	Calculus II	[4]	MATH 1320	Calculus II	[4]
PHYS 1720	Introductory Physics II	[5]			

Requirements:

Option I			Option II		
			PHYS 1425	Gen. Phys. I	[3]
PHYS 2630	Elementary Lab I	[3]	PHYS 1429	Gen. Phys. I Workshop	[1]
			PHYS 2415	Gen. Phys. II	[3]
PHYS 2640	Elementary Lab II	[3]	PHYS 2419	Gen. Phys. II Workshop	[1]
MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]	MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]
MATH 3250	Ord. Diff. Eqn.	[4]	MATH 3250	Ord. Diff. Eqn.	[4]
PHYS 2620	Modern Physics	[4]	PHYS 2620	Modern Physics	[4]
Three courses chosen from PHYS 2660 and/or 3000-level physics courses			Four courses chosen from PHYS 2660 and /or 3000-level physics courses		

3000-level courses that are chosen most often as electives and that are offered regularly:

PHYS 3040	Physics of the Human Body	[3]
PHYS 3110	Widely Applied Physics	[3]
PHYS 3120	Applied Physics: Energy	[3]
PHYS 3150	Electronics	[3]
PHYS 3170	Intermediate Lab I	[3]
PHYS 3180	Intermediate Lab II	[3]
PHYS 3250	Applied Nuclear Physics	[3]
PHYS 3620	Introduction to Condensed Matter Physics	[3]
PHYS 3995	Research	[3]

Classes that are admissible, but directed towards the more advanced majors, include:

PHYS 3210	Classical Mechanics	[3]
PHYS 3310	Statistical Physics	[3]
PHYS 3420, 3430	Electricity and Magnetism I, II	[3,3]
PHYS 3650, 3660	Quantum Mechanics I, II	[3,3]

See the appendix (page 22) for a more complete list of electives.

REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) IN PHYSICS

The BS provides a strong preparation for graduate study in Physics and Physics-related areas, and for scientific and technical jobs.

There are two options leading to the BS in physics, each having three components:

Option I

- (1) Prerequisites – MATH 1320 and PHYS 1710, 1720.
- (2) Prerequisites – MATH 2310, 3250 and PHYS 2620, 2630, 2640.
- (3) MATH 4210, 4220, and PHYS 2660, 3170 or 3180, 3210, 3310, 3420, 3430, 3650, 3660, 3995 and two 3000-5000 level Physics electives (one elective for class of 2018 and earlier)

Option I is the recommended course sequence for BS students. A course schedule is shown on page 18.

Option II

- (1) Prerequisites – MATH 1320
- (2) Prerequisites – MATH 2310, 3250 and PHYS 1425, 1429, 2415, 2419, 2620
- (3) MATH 4210, 4220, and PHYS 2660, 3170 or 3180, 3210, 3310, 3420, 3430, 3650, 3660, 3995 and two 3000-5000 level Physics electives (one elective for class of 2018 and earlier)

Option II is often taken by students who plan (at least, initially) for a different major.

Students can substitute APMA 1110 (Applied Calculus II) for MATH 1320 (Calculus II), APMA 2120 (Multivariable Calculus) for MATH 2310 (Calculus III), APMA 2130 (Applied Differential Equations) or MATH 3255 (Ordinary Differential Equations) for MATH 3250 (Ordinary Differential Equations), and APMA 3140 (Applied Partial Differential Equations) for MATH 4220.

Three special concentrations can be pursued by students in either the BA or the BS programs: A Computational Physics Concentration (PHYS 5630, 5640 Computational Physics I, II); an Optics Concentration (PHYS 5310 Optics and PHYS 5320 Fundamentals of Photonics); and an Experimental Physics Concentration (PHYS 3150 Electronics, PHYS 3170 Intermediate Laboratory I, and PHYS 3180 Intermediate Laboratory II).

A grade point average of at least 2.0 for all the required courses with a minimum grade of C- must be achieved for graduation. Required courses are the ones listed as component (3) above, and their substitutes. The School imposes other requirements for graduation; e.g. students in the College of Arts and Sciences need to earn a certain number of credits, and, if not Echols scholars, have to fulfill competency and area requirements.

Distinguished Major Program - This program provides recognition of outstanding academic performance in a challenging sequence of Physics courses including a research project. Students who complete the BA-Distinguished Majors Course Sequence or the BS requirements with final grade point averages exceeding 3.4, 3.6, or 3.8, are given departmental recommendation to receive their degrees (BA or BS) with distinction, high distinction, or highest distinction, respectively.

Table II - Requirements for BS in Physics

Prerequisites:

Option I			Option II		
PHYS 1710	Introductory Physics I	[4]	PHYS 1425	Gen. Phys. I	[3]
			PHYS 1429	Gen. Phys. I Workshop	[1]
MATH 1320	Calculus II	[4]	MATH 1320	Calculus II	[4]
PHYS 1720	Introductory Physics II	[4]	PHYS 2415	Gen. Phys. II	[3]
			PHYS 2419	Gen. Phys. II Workshop	[1]
MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]	MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]
PHYS 2630	Elementary Lab I	[3]			
MATH 3250	Ord. Diff. Eqn.	[4]	MATH 3250	Ord. Diff. Eqn.	[4]
PHYS 2620	Modern Physics	[4]	PHYS 2620	Modern Physics	[4]
PHYS 2640	Elementary Lab II	[3]			

Requirements:

MATH 4210	Mathematics for Physics ³	[3]
MATH 4220	Partial Differential Equations	[3]
PHYS 2660	Fund. Scientific Computing	[3]
PHYS 3170 or 3180	Intermediate Lab	[3]
PHYS 3210	Classical Mechanics	[3]
PHYS 3420, 3430	Electricity & Magnetism I, II ⁴	[3,3]
PHYS 3310	Statistical Physics	[3]
PHYS 3650, 3660	Quantum Physics I, II	[3,3]
PHYS 3995	Research	[3]
	Two physics Electives ^{5,6}	[3,3]

³ Students who are taking upper level math courses should consult with their physics advisor if those courses obviate the need for MATH 4210. If so, the advisor can waive this requirement.

⁴ Your advisor may allow substituting PHYS 3430 with PHYS 5310 (Optics), in which case PHYS 5310 would not double-count as an elective. Students that plan to continue in graduate school in physics should take PHYS 3430.

⁵ To be chosen from any of the 3000-level or 5000-level Physics courses (see appendix, page 22).

⁶ One elective for class of 2018 and earlier

REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH DISTINGUISHED MAJOR COURSE SEQUENCE (BA-DMP) IN PHYSICS

The Bachelor of Arts with Distinguished Major Course Sequence prepares for graduate study in Physics and Physics-related areas and for scientific and technical jobs. Bachelor of Arts with Distinguished Major Course Sequence is a distinguished majors program that is nearly as strong as the BS program.

There are two options leading to the BA-DMP in physics, each having three components:

Option I

- (1) Prerequisites – MATH 1320 and PHYS 1710, 1720.
- (2) Prerequisites – MATH 2310, 3250 and PHYS 2620, 2630, 2640.
- (3) PHYS 2660, 3170 or 3180, 3210, 3310, 3420, 3650, 3660, 3995 and one 3000-5000 level Physics elective

Option II

- (1) Prerequisites – MATH 1320
- (2) Prerequisites – MATH 2310, 3250 and PHYS 1425, 1429, 2415, 2419, 2620
- (3) PHYS 2660, 3170 or 3180, 3210, 3310, 3420, 3650, 3660, 3995 and one 3000-5000 level Physics elective

All comments and substitutions that are discussed in the description of the BS sequence are applicable here.

Table III - Requirements for BA-DMP in Physics

Prerequisites:

Option I			Option II		
PHYS 1710	Introductory Physics I	[4]	PHYS 1425	Gen. Phys. I	[3]
			PHYS 1429	Gen. Phys. I Workshop	[1]
MATH 1320	Calculus II	[4]	MATH 1320	Calculus II	[4]
PHYS 1720	Introductory Physics II	[4]	PHYS 2415	Gen. Phys. II	[3]
			PHYS 2419	Gen. Phys. II Workshop	[1]
MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]	MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]
PHYS 2630	Elementary Lab I	[3]			
MATH 3250	Ord. Diff. Eqn.	[4]	MATH 3250	Ord. Diff. Eqn.	[4]
PHYS 2620	Modern Physics	[4]	PHYS 2620	Modern Physics	[4]
PHYS 2640	Elementary Lab II	[3]			

Requirements:

PHYS 2660	Fund. Scientific Computing	[3]
PHYS 3170 or 3180	Intermediate Lab	[3]
PHYS 3210	Classical Mechanics	[3]
PHYS 3420	Electricity & Magnetism I	[3]
PHYS 3310	Statistical Physics	[3]
PHYS 3650, 3660	Quantum Physics I, II	[3,3]
PHYS 3995	Research	[3]
	Physics Elective ⁷	[3]

⁷ To be chosen from any of the 3000-level or 5000-level Physics courses (see appendix, page 22).

REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ASTRONOMY/PHYSICS

This is an interdepartmental major administered jointly with the Astronomy Department. The major prepares a student for graduate study in either Astronomy or Physics. Students in this major have advisors both from Astronomy and Physics.

Required courses are MATH 1320, 2310, 3250, 4210, 4220; PHYS 1710, 1720, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2660, 3210, 3420, 3430, 3650; and ASTR 2110, 2120, 3130, 4993, 4998 (Senior Thesis), and six additional credits of 3000-5000 level Astronomy courses. The default sequence is shown on page 20.

The School imposes other requirements for graduation; e.g. students in the College of Arts and Sciences need to earn a certain number of credits, and, if not Echols scholars, have to fulfill competency and area requirements.

Until fall 2015, this degree was called the Bachelor of Arts in Astronomy/Physics

Distinguished Astronomy-Physics Major Program - Students must maintain a GPA of 3.4 or better. For the Distinguished Major, students must meet the requirements of the Astronomy-Physics major described above and must also take PHYS 3660 (Quantum Phys. II) and a two-semester Senior Thesis (ASTR 4998). The six hours of elective Astronomy courses must consist of ASTR 4810 and a 5000-level course. This program leads to the award of degrees with Distinction, High Distinction, or Highest Distinction.

REQUIREMENTS: MINOR IN PHYSICS

In addition to a major, students may choose a minor in a second subject. The Physics Minor is for students who decided for a major in something else than physics, but who are interested in taking physics courses, and want to be able to show a basic understanding of physics.

There are two options leading to a Physics Minor:

Option I

PHYS 1710, 1720 (Introductory Physics I-II for Physics Majors), 2620 (Modern Physics), and either 2630 (Elementary Lab I) or any 3000-level physics course.

Option II

PHYS 1425, 1429, 2415, 2419 (the Engineering Physics Sequence), 2620 (Modern Physics), and any 3000-level physics course.

A grade point average of at least 2.0 for all the required courses for the minor with a minimum grade of C- must be achieved.

TYPICAL COURSE SEQUENCES

Example Course Sequence for Basic BA, Option I (new)

Shown is a typical schedule for a student in class of 2019 or later who intends to major with a BA in physics, and takes option I. The course sequence shown covers only the courses that are relevant for the major. Students who are taking the Distinguished Major Program need more physics courses. A Physics BA can be started in the second year, and completed by moving PHYS 2630, 2640 to the fourth year. Calculus I can be taken in the first year, if needed.

Fall		First Year		Spring	
MATH 1320	Calculus II	[4]	MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]
PHYS 1710	Intro. Physics I	[5]	PHYS 1720	Intro. Physics II	[5]
-----		-----		-----	
		Second Year			
MATH 3250	Differential Eqn.	[3]	PHYS 2660	Fund. Scient. Comp.	[3]
PHYS 2620	Modern Physics	[4]	-----	-----	
-----		-----		-----	
		Third Year			
PHYS 2630	Elem. Lab. I	[3]	PHYS 2640	Elem. Lab. II	[3]
-----		-----		-----	
		Fourth Year			
PHYS 3110	Widely Applied Physics	[3]	PHYS 3120	Applied Physics: Energy	[3]
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Example Course Sequence for Basic BA, Option I (old)

Shown is a typical schedule for a student in class of 2018 or earlier who intends to major with a BA in physics, and takes option I. The course sequence shown covers only the courses that are relevant for the major. Students who are taking the Distinguished Major Program need more physics courses.

Fall		First Year		Spring	
MATH 1310	Calculus I	[4]	MATH 1320	Calculus II	[4]
PHYS 1610	Intro. Physics I	[4]	PHYS 1620	Intro. Physics II	[4]

Second Year					
MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]	PHYS 2660	Fund. Scient. Comp.	[3]
PHYS 2610	Intro. Physics III	[4]	MATH 3250	Differential Eqn.	[3]

Third Year					
PHYS 2630	Elem. Lab. I	[3]	PHYS 2640	Elem. Lab. II	[3]

Fourth Year					
PHYS 3110	Widely Applied Physics	[3]	PHYS 3120	Applied Physics: Energy	[3]

Example Course Sequence for Basic BA, Option II (new)

Shown is a typical schedule for a student in class of 2019 or later who intends to major with a BA in physics, and takes Option II (e.g., a student from engineering school). The course sequence shown covers only the courses that are relevant for the major. Students who are taking the Distinguished Major Program need more physics courses. The General Physics lectures and workshops are currently offered in fall, spring, and summer; therefore a start in fall of the first year, or in fall of the second year, is also possible.

Fall		Spring	
First Year			
MATH 1310	Calculus I ⁸	[4]	MATH 2310 Calculus II [4]
-----			PHYS 1425 General Physics I [3]
-----			PHYS 1429 General Physics I Works. [1]
-----			-----
Second Year			
MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]	MATH 3250 Differential Eqn. [3]
PHYS 2415	General Physics II	[3]	PHYS 3xxx Elective [3]
PHYS 2419	General Physics II Works.	[1]	-----
-----			-----
Third Year			
PHYS 2620	Modern Physics	[4]	PHYS 3xxx Elective [3]
-----			-----
Fourth Year			
PHYS 3110	Widely Applied Physics	[3]	PHYS 3xxx Elective [3]
-----			-----

⁸ This course is not required

Example Course Sequence for Basic BA, Option II (old)

Shown is a typical schedule for a student in class of 2018 or earlier who intends to major with a BA in physics, and takes Option II (e.g., students from engineering school). The course sequence shown covers only the courses that are relevant for the major. Students who are taking the Distinguished Major Program need more physics courses. The General Physics lectures and workshops are currently offered in fall, spring, and summer; therefore a start in fall of the first year, or in fall of the second year, is also possible.

Fall		Spring	
First Year			
MATH 1310	Calculus I	[4]	MATH 2310 Calculus II [4]
-----			PHYS 1425 General Physics I [3]
-----			PHYS 1429 General Physics I Works. [1]
-----			-----
Second Year			
MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]	MATH 3255 Differential Eqn. [3]
PHYS 2415	General Physics II	[3]	PHYS 2620 Modern Physics [4]
PHYS 2419	General Physics II Works.	[1]	-----
-----			-----
Third Year			
PHYS 3110	Widely Applied Physics	[3]	PHYS 3120 Applied Physics: Energy [3]
-----			-----
Fourth Year			
PHYS 3xxx	Elective	[3]	PHYS 3xxx Elective [3]
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Example Course Sequence for BS in Physics (new)

This schedule is for students in class of 2019 or later who intend to major with a BS in physics. The course sequence shown covers only the courses that are relevant for the major.

	Fall		Spring	
		First Year		
MATH 1320	Calculus II	[4]	MATH 2310	Calculus III [4]
PHYS 1710	Intro. Physics I	[5]	PHYS 1720	Intro. Physics II [5]
-----			PHYS 2660	Fund. Scient. Comp. [3]
-----			-----	
		Second Year		
MATH 3250	Differential Eqn.	[3]	MATH 4210	Mathematics for Physics [3]
PHYS 2620	Modern Physics	[4]	PHYS 3210	Class. Mech. [3]
PHYS 2630	Elem. Lab. I	[3]	PHYS 2640	Elem. Lab II [3]
-----			-----	
		Third Year		
MATH 4220	Part. Diff. Eq.	[3]	PHYS 3420	Electricity & Magn. I [3]
PHYS 3650	Quantum Physics I	[3]	PHYS 3660	Quantum Physics II [3]
PHYS 3170	Intermediate Lab	[3]	PHYS 3xxx	Elective [3]
-----			-----	
		Fourth Year		
PHYS 3995	Research	[3]	PHYS 3xxx	Elective [3]
PHYS 3430	Electricity & Magn. II	[3]	-----	
PHYS 3310	Statistical Physics	[3]	-----	
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Example Course Sequence for BS in Physics (old)

This schedule is for students in class of 2018 or earlier who intend to major with a BS in physics. The course sequence shown covers only the courses that are relevant for the major.

	Fall		First Year		Spring	
MATH 1310	Calculus I	[4]	MATH 1320	Calculus II	[4]	
PHYS 1610	Intro. Physics I	[4]	PHYS 1620	Intro. Physics II	[4]	
-----			PHYS 2660	Fund. Scient. Comp.	[3]	
-----			-----			
			Second Year			
MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]	MATH 3255	Differential Eqn.	[3]	
PHYS 2610	Intro. Physics III	[4]	PHYS 2620	Modern Physics	[4]	
PHYS 2630	Elem. Lab. I	[3]	PHYS 2640	Elem. Lab II	[3]	
-----			-----			
			Third Year			
MATH 4210	Adv. Calculus	[3]	MATH 4220	Part. Diff. Eq.	[3]	
PHYS 3210	Class. Mech.	[3]	PHYS 3420	Electricity & Magn. I	[3]	
PHYS 3650	Quantum Physics I	[3]	PHYS 3660	Quantum Physics II	[3]	
-----			-----			
			Fourth Year			
PHYS 3310	Statistical Physics	[3]	PHYS 3180	Intermediate Lab	[3]	
PHYS 3430	Electricity & Magn. II	[3]	PHYS 3xxx	Elective	[3]	
PHYS 3995	Research	[3]	-----			
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Example Course Sequence for BS Astronomy/Physics (new)

This schedule is for students in class of 2019 or later who intend to major with a BS in Astronomy / Physics. The course sequence shown covers only the courses that are relevant for the major. Students in the Distinguished Astronomy-Physics Major Program are required to take more courses, mostly in their last year.

Fall		First Year		Spring	
MATH 1320	Calculus II	[4]	MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]
PHYS 1710	Intro. Physics I	[5]	PHYS 1720	Intro. Physics II	[5]
-----			ASTR 1610	Intro. Astr. Research ⁹	[1]
-----			-----		
		Second Year			
MATH 3250	Differential Eqn.	[3]	MATH 4210	Mathematics for Physics	[3]
PHYS 2620	Modern Physics	[4]	PHYS 3210	Class. Mech.	[3]
ASTRO 2110	Intro. Astroph. I	[3]	ASTRO 2120	Intro. Astroph. II	[3]
PHYS 2630	Elem. Lab. I	[3]	PHYS 2640	Elem. Lab II	[3]
-----			-----		
		Third Year			
MATH 4220	Part. Diff. Eq.	[3]	PHYS 3420	Electricity & Magn. I	[3]
PHYS 3650	Quantum Physics I	[3]	PHYS 2660	Fund. Scient. Comp.	[3]
ASTR 4993	Tutorial	[3]	ASTR 3130	Observ. Astro.	[4]
-----			-----		
-----			-----		
		Fourth Year			
ASTR 4810	Astrophysics	[3]	ASTR 4998	Thesis	[3]
PHYS 3430	Electricity & Magn. II	[3]	ASTR 3xxx	Astro. elective	[3]
PHYS 3310	Statistical Physics	[3]	ASTR 3xxx	Astro. elective	[3]
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⁹ This course is not required

Example Course Sequence for BS Astronomy/Physics (old)

This schedule is for students in class of 2018 or earlier who intend to major with a BS in Astronomy/Physics. The course sequence shown covers only the courses that are relevant for the major. Students in the Distinguished Astronomy-Physics Major Program are required to take more courses, mostly in their last year.

	Fall		First Year		Spring
MATH 1310	Calculus I	[4]	MATH 1320	Calculus II	[4]
PHYS 1610	Intro. Physics I	[4]	PHYS 1620	Intro. Physics II	[4]
-----			ASTR 1610	Intro. Astr. Research ¹⁰	[1]
-----			-----		
			Second Year		
MATH 2310	Calculus III	[4]	MATH 3255	Differential Eqn.	[3]
PHYS 2610	Intro. Physics III	[4]	PHYS 2620	Modern Physics	[4]
PHYS 2630	Elem. Lab. I	[3]	PHYS 2640	Elem. Lab II	[3]
ASTRO 2110	Intro. Astroph. I	[3]	ASTRO 2120	Intro. Astroph. II	[3]
-----			-----		
			Third Year		
MATH 4210	Adv. Calculus	[3]	MATH 4220	Part. Diff. Eq.	[3]
PHYS 3210	Class. Mech.	[3]	PHYS 3420	Electricity & Magn. I	[3]
PHYS 3650	Quantum Physics I	[3]	PHYS 2660	Fund. Scient. Comp.	[3]
ASTR 4993	Tutorial	[3]	ASTR 3130	Observ. Astro.	[4]
-----			-----		
			Fourth Year		
PHYS 3310	Statistical Physics	[3]	ASTR 4998	Thesis	[3]
PHYS 3430	Electricity & Magn. II	[3]	ASTR 3xxx	Astro. elective	[3]
ASTR 4810	Astrophysics	[3]	-----		
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¹⁰ This course is not required

Appendix: Upper Level Physics Courses that are taught regularly

PHYS 3040	Physics of the Human Body	[3]
PHYS 3110	Widely Applied Physics	[3]
PHYS 3120	Applied Physics: Energy	[3]
PHYS 3150	Electronics Lab	[3]
PHYS 3170, 3180	Intermediate Lab I, II	[3, 3]
PHYS 3210	Classical Mechanics	[3]
PHYS 3250	Applied Nuclear Physics	[3]
PHYS 3310	Statistical Physics	[3]
PHYS 3420, 3430	Electricity and Magnetism I, II	[3, 3]
PHYS 3620	Introduction to Condensed Matter Physics	[3]
PHYS 3650, 3660	Quantum Physics I, II	[3, 3]
PHYS 3993	Independent Study	[3]
PHYS 3995	Research	[3]
PHYS 5240	Introduction to General Relativity	[3]
PHYS 5250, 5260	Mathematical Methods of Physics I, II	[3, 3]
PHYS 5310	Optics	[3]
PHYS 5320	Fundamentals of Photonics	[3]
PHYS 5620	Introduction to Solid State Physics	[3]
PHYS 5630, 5640	Computational Physics I, II	[3, 3]
PHYS 5720	Introduction to Nuclear and Particle Physics	[3]
PHYS 5820	Introduction to Nanophysics	[3]