**PHYSICS, B.S. (SCIENCE)**

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus  
**End Campus:** University Park

### Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Physics, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>93-96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 9 credits of GN courses; 6 credits of GQ courses; 3 credits of GWS courses.

### General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

**Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)**

- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

**Knowledge Domains**

- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

**Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)**

- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

### University Degree Requirements

**First Year Engagement**

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

**Cultures Requirement**

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

**Writing Across the Curriculum**

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

**Total Minimum Credits**

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

**Quality of Work**

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

**Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition**

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

### Requirements for the Major

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

**Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 111</td>
<td>Experimental Chemistry I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 112</td>
<td>Chemical Principles II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 113</td>
<td>Experimental Chemistry II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202C</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Technical Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 220</td>
<td>Matrices</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 110</td>
<td>Chemical Principles I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 140</td>
<td>Calculus With Analytic Geometry I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 141</td>
<td>Calculus with Analytic Geometry II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 251</td>
<td>Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 211</td>
<td>General Physics: Mechanics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 212</td>
<td>General Physics: Electricity and Magnetism</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 213</td>
<td>General Physics: Fluids and Thermal Physics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 214</td>
<td>General Physics: Wave Motion and Quantum Physics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 237</td>
<td>Introduction to Modern Physics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PHYS 400 Intermediate Electricity and Magnetism 4
PHYS 410 Introduction to Quantum Mechanics I 4
PHYS 419 Theoretical Mechanics 3
PHYS 420 Thermal Physics 3
PHYS 444 Topics in Contemporary Physics 2
PHYS 457W Experimental Physics 3

Additional Courses
Select 3 credits from the following: 3
- CMPSC 101 Introduction to Programming
- CMPSC 121 Introduction to Programming Techniques
- CMPSC 131 Programming and Computation I: Fundamentals
- CMPSC 200 Programming for Engineers with MATLAB
- CMPSC 201 Programming for Engineers with C++

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better
MATH 230 Calculus and Vector Analysis 4
or MATH 231 Calculus of Several Variables
& MATH 232 and Integral Vector Calculus

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Select 3 credits of 400-level MATH from departmental list 3

Requirements for the Option
Select an option 24-27

Requirements for the Option
Computation Option (24 credits)
Code Title Credits
Prescribed Courses
MATH 455 Introduction to Numerical Analysis I 3
MATH 456 Introduction to Numerical Analysis II 3

Additional Courses
CMPSC 122 Intermediate Programming 3
or CMPSC 132 Programming and Computation II: Data Structures

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Select 6 credits from program list 6
Select 3 credits of natural science (GN) courses that are not listed in the major 3
Select 6 credits from the following: 6
- AERSP 424 Advanced Computer Programming
- PHYS 430 Introduction to Computational Physics

300-400-level CMPSC
- 400-level MATH from departmental list
- 400-level STAT

\(^1\) CMPSC 122 has CMPSC 121 as a prerequisite and CMPSC 132 has CMPSC 131 as a prerequisite so care should be taken when choosing the 'programming requirement' under the Common Requirements for the major.

Electronics Option (27 credits)
Code Title Credits
Prescribed Courses
EE 210 Circuits and Devices 4

Additional Courses
Select 8 credits from the following: 8
- CMPEN 270 Digital Design: Theory and Practice
- EE 310 Electronic Circuit Design I

EE 350 Continuous-Time Linear Systems

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Select 6 credits from program list 6
Select 3 credits of natural science (GN) courses that are not listed in the major 3
Select 6 credits of EE 300- or 400-level courses 6

General Physics Option (25-26 credits)
Code Title Credits
Additional Courses
PHYS 402 Electronics for Scientists 4
or PHYS 458 Intermediate Optics
Select 6-7 credits from items A, B, and/or C: 1

A
PHYS 406 Subatomic Physics
PHYS 411 Introduction to Quantum Mechanics II
PHYS 412 Solid State Physics I
PHYS 413 Solid State Physics II
PHYS 414 Solid State Physics
PHYS 430 Introduction to Computational Physics

PHYS 461

PHYS 472 Elements of Nuclear Physics and its Applications to Medical Imaging and Treatments
PHYS 479 Special and General Relativity
PHYS 496 Independent Studies
PHYS 497 Special Topics

B
PHYS 402 Electronics for Scientists 2
or PHYS 458 Intermediate Optics

C
ASTRO 410 Computational Astrophysics
ASTRO 440 Introduction to Astrophysics
ASTRO 485 Introduction to High-Energy Astronomy

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Select 3 credits of natural science (GN) courses that are not listed in the major 3
Select 9 credits from program list, with a maximum of 6 credits of the following: 9

- PHYS 496 Independent Studies
- SC 295 Science Co-op Work Experience I
- SC 395 Science Co-op Work Experience II
- SC 495 Science Co-op Work Experience III

Select 3 credits of 400-level MATH from program list 3

\(^1\) Only 3 credits of ASTRO courses may be used.
\(^2\) The course not selected above may be used.

Medical Physics Option (24-25 credits)
This option prepares students for graduate study in medical physics, medical school, or bioengineering.

Code Title Credits
Additional Courses
Select course set A or B: 15-16
Set A
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 110</td>
<td>Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 230W</td>
<td>Biology: Molecules and Cells</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or BIOL 240W</td>
<td>Biology: Function and Development of Organisms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 210</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 212</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 213</td>
<td>Laboratory in Organic Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Set B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 141</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or BIOL 472</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 credits of PHYS 472 or BME at the 300- or 400-level

Select one of the following:

- BMB 251 Molecular and Cell Biology I
- BIOL 230W Biology: Molecules and Cells
- BME 201 Fundamentals of Cells and Molecules

**Supporting Courses and Related Options**

Select 9 credits from program list, a maximum of 6 credits may be from the following:

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 496</td>
<td>Independent Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 295</td>
<td>Science Co-op Work Experience I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 395</td>
<td>Science Co-op Work Experience II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 495</td>
<td>Science Co-op Work Experience III</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nanotechnology/Material Science Option (24-25 credits)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 412</td>
<td>Solid State Physics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Courses**

Select course set A or B: 1

A

- ESC 312 Engineering Applications of Wave, Particle, and Ensemble Concepts
- ESC 313 Introduction to Principles, Fabrication Methods, and Applications of Nanotechnology

6 credits from ESC 400-level courses

B

- MATSE 201 Introduction to Materials Science
- MATSE 402 Materials Process Kinetics
  or MATSE 436 Mechanical Properties of Materials
- MATSE 430 Materials Characterization
- MATSE 460 Introductory Laboratory in Materials

3 credits from 400-level MATSE courses

**Supporting Courses and Related Areas**

Select 6 credits from program list

Select 3 credits of natural science (GN) courses that are not listed in the major

1 The courses in option A help satisfy the requirements for the Nanotechnology minor.