

Physics

Physics is the scientific study of the fundamental principles governing the behavior of matter and the interaction of matter and energy. Mathematics is used to describe fundamental physical principles, the behavior of matter, and the interactions of matter and energy. As the most fundamental of sciences, physics provides a foundation for other scientific fields as well as the underpinnings of modern technology. The Physics department is unique because of the breadth of its faculty expertise and research, and the relatively intimate size of its classes above the introductory level. Physics concentrators may choose to pursue either the A.B. or the more intensive Sc.B. degree. Course work on either path covers a broad base of topics (for example, electricity and magnetism, classical and quantum mechanics, thermodynamics, and statistical mechanics). The Sc.B. degree requires additional advanced topics as well as a senior thesis project.

Standard concentration for the A.B. degree

Select one of the following Series: 2

PHYS 0030	Basic Physics A
or PHYS 0050	Foundations of Mechanics
or PHYS 0070	Analytical Mechanics
PHYS 0040	Basic Physics B
or PHYS 0060	Foundations of Electromagnetism and Modern Physics
or PHYS 0160	Introduction to Relativity, Waves and Quantum Physics

Take each of the following: 5

PHYS 0470	Electricity and Magnetism
PHYS 0500	Advanced Classical Mechanics
PHYS 0560	Experiments in Modern Physics
PHYS 1410	Quantum Mechanics A
PHYS 1530	Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics (One additional 1000-level course or a mathematics course beyond the introductory level.)

One additional 1000-level course or a mathematics course beyond the introductory level. 1

Total Credits 8

Standard program for the Sc.B. degree

Prerequisites:

Select one of each: 2

PHYS 0050	Foundations of Mechanics
or PHYS 0070	Analytical Mechanics
PHYS 0060	Foundations of Electromagnetism and Modern Physics
or PHYS 0160	Introduction to Relativity, Waves and Quantum Physics

Select one of the following: 1

MATH 0190	Single Variable Calculus, Part II (Physics/Engineering)
or MATH 0090	Single Variable Calculus, Part I
or MATH 0100	Single Variable Calculus, Part II

Program: 8

PHYS 0470	Electricity and Magnetism
PHYS 0500	Advanced Classical Mechanics
PHYS 0560	Experiments in Modern Physics
PHYS 1410	Quantum Mechanics A
PHYS 1420	Quantum Mechanics B
PHYS 1510	Advanced Electromagnetic Theory
PHYS 1530	Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics

PHYS 1560 Modern Physics Laboratory

Take one additional 1000 or 2000 level Physics course or upper level course in related fields of science chosen by the student with the agreement of his or her advisor. 1

Four Mathematics courses beyond MATH 0190 or 0090, 0100 including choices from Applied Mathematics ¹ 4

PHYS 1990 Senior Conference Course ² 1

Total Credits 17

¹ In addition, courses in computer programming are recommended.

² A senior thesis is required. This is to be prepared in connection with PHYS 1990 under the direction of a faculty supervisor. The topic may be in related department or of interdisciplinary nature. In any event, a dissertation must be submitted.

Astrophysics Track for the Sc.B. degree

Prerequisites:

Select one of each: 2

PHYS 0050 Foundations of Mechanics
or PHYS 0070 Analytical Mechanics

PHYS 0060 Foundations of Electromagnetism and Modern Physics
or PHYS 0160 Introduction to Relativity, Waves and Quantum Physics

PHYS 0270 Astronomy and Astrophysics 1

Select one of the following Series: 2

MATH 0170 Single Variable Calculus, Part II (Accelerated)
& MATH 0180 and Multivariable Calculus

MATH 0190 Single Variable Calculus, Part II (Physics/Engineering)
& MATH 0200 and Multivariable Calculus (Physics/Engineering)

MATH 0350 Multivariable Calculus With Theory (or equivalent)

PHYS 0470 Electricity and Magnetism 1

Program:

MATH 0520 Linear Algebra 1

or MATH 0540 Linear Algebra With Theory
or PHYS 0720 Methods of Mathematical Physics

Select one of the following Math courses: 1

APMA 0330 Methods of Applied Mathematics I

APMA 0340 Methods of Applied Mathematics II

APMA 0350 Applied Ordinary Differential Equations

APMA 0360 Applied Partial Differential Equations I

MATH 1110 Ordinary Differential Equations

MATH 1120 Partial Differential Equations

PHYS 0500 Advanced Classical Mechanics 1

PHYS 0560 Experiments in Modern Physics 1

PHYS 1410 Quantum Mechanics A 1

PHYS 1530 Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics 1

Three of the following: 3

PHYS 1100 General Relativity

PHYS 1250 Stellar Structure and the Interstellar Medium

PHYS 1270 Extragalactic Astronomy and High-Energy Astrophysics

PHYS 1280 Introduction to Cosmology

Two additional 1000- or 2000-level courses in physics or a related field which are not listed as requirements. 2

PHYS 1990	Senior Conference Course ¹	1
Total Credits		18

¹ A senior thesis is required. This is to be prepared in connection with under the direction of a faculty supervisor. The topic may be in a related department or of interdisciplinary nature. In any event, a dissertation must be submitted.

Biological Physics Track for the Sc.B. degree

Foundations of Physics

PHYS 0070	Analytical Mechanics	1
or PHYS 0050	Foundations of Mechanics	
or ENGN 0040	Engineering Statics and Dynamics	
PHYS 0160	Introduction to Relativity, Waves and Quantum Physics	1
or PHYS 0060	Foundations of Electromagnetism and Modern Physics	
PHYS 0470	Electricity and Magnetism	1
PHYS 0500	Advanced Classical Mechanics	1
PHYS 1410	Quantum Mechanics A	1
PHYS 1530	Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics	1

Select one of the following Series: ¹ 1-2

Series A

PHYS 0720 Methods of Mathematical Physics

Series B

Select one of the following:

APMA 0330 Methods of Applied Mathematics I
 APMA 0350 Applied Ordinary Differential Equations
 MATH 1110 Ordinary Differential Equations

And select one of the following:

MATH 0180 Multivariable Calculus
 MATH 0200 Multivariable Calculus (Physics/Engineering)
 MATH 0350 Multivariable Calculus With Theory
 MATH 0520 Linear Algebra
 MATH 0540 Linear Algebra With Theory

Basic Biology and Chemistry

BIOL 0200	The Foundation of Living Systems (or placement out of BIOL 0200)	1
BIOL 0500	Cell and Molecular Biology	1
CHEM 0330	Equilibrium, Rate, and Structure	1

Advanced Biophysical Topics and Techniques

PHYS 1610	Biological Physics	1
PHYS 1990	Senior Conference Course	1

Elective Courses (four chosen from the following list, with at least two 1000-level courses, or additional courses approved by the concentration advisor): 4

APMA 0360	Applied Partial Differential Equations I	
APMA 0410	Mathematical Methods in the Brain Sciences	
APMA 0650	Essential Statistics	
APMA 1070	Quantitative Models of Biological Systems	
APMA 1080	Inference in Genomics and Molecular Biology	
BIOL 0280	Biochemistry	
BIOL 0470	Genetics	
BIOL 1050	Biology of the Eukaryotic Cell	
BIOL 1200	Protein Biophysics and Structure	
BIOL 1270	Advanced Biochemistry	

BIOL 1870	Techniques and Clinical Applications in Pathobiology	
CHEM 0350	Organic Chemistry I	
CHEM 0360	Organic Chemistry II	
MATH 0090	Single Variable Calculus, Part I	
MATH 0170	Single Variable Calculus, Part II (Accelerated)	
MATH 0190	Single Variable Calculus, Part II (Physics/Engineering)	
MATH 1620	Mathematical Statistics	
MATH 1210	Probability	
PHYS 0560	Experiments in Modern Physics	
PHYS 1510	Advanced Electromagnetic Theory	
PHYS 1560	Modern Physics Laboratory	
PHYS 2620F	Selected Topics in Molecular Biophysics	
PHYS 1990	Senior Conference Course ²	1
Total Credits		17-18

¹ Select Series A alone or two from Series B as indicated.

² A senior thesis is required. This is to be prepared in connection with under the direction of a faculty supervisor. The topic may be in a related department or of interdisciplinary nature. In any event, a dissertation must be submitted.

Mathematical Physics Track for the A.B. degree

Prerequisites:

MATH 0090	Single Variable Calculus, Part I	1
or MATH 0100	Single Variable Calculus, Part II	
or MATH 0190	Single Variable Calculus, Part II (Physics/Engineering)	
PHYS 0050	Foundations of Mechanics	1
or PHYS 0070	Analytical Mechanics	

Mathematics Courses ¹

MATH 0180	Multivariable Calculus	1
or MATH 0200	Multivariable Calculus (Physics/Engineering)	
or MATH 0350	Multivariable Calculus With Theory	
MATH 0520	Linear Algebra	1
or MATH 0540	Linear Algebra With Theory	
MATH 1110	Ordinary Differential Equations	1
Select at least one of the following:		1
MATH 1060	Differential Geometry	
MATH 1120	Partial Differential Equations	
MATH 1210	Probability	

Physics Courses ¹

PHYS 0060	Foundations of Electromagnetism and Modern Physics	1
or PHYS 0160	Introduction to Relativity, Waves and Quantum Physics	
PHYS 0470	Electricity and Magnetism	1
PHYS 0500	Advanced Classical Mechanics	1
PHYS 0560	Experiments in Modern Physics	1
Select at least two of the following:		2
PHYS 1410	Quantum Mechanics A	
PHYS 1420	Quantum Mechanics B	
PHYS 1510	Advanced Electromagnetic Theory	
PHYS 1530	Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics	

PHYS 1560	Modern Physics Laboratory	
Total Credits		12

¹ Concentrators are required to take at least one course in mathematics and one in physics in each of their last two semesters.

Mathematical Physics Track for the Sc.B. degree

Prerequisites:

Select one of the following series: 2

PHYS 0050 Foundations of Mechanics
or PHYS 0070 Analytical Mechanics

PHYS 0060 Foundations of Electromagnetism and Modern Physics
or PHYS 0160 Introduction to Relativity, Waves and Quantum Physics

Select one of the following: 1-2

MATH 0190 Single Variable Calculus, Part II (Physics/Engineering)

MATH 0090 Single Variable Calculus, Part I and Single Variable Calculus, Part II

Required courses:

PHYS 0470	Electricity and Magnetism	1
PHYS 0500	Advanced Classical Mechanics	1
PHYS 0560	Experiments in Modern Physics	1
PHYS 1410	Quantum Mechanics A	1
PHYS 1530	Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics	1
MATH 0180 & MATH 0200	Multivariable Calculus and Multivariable Calculus (Physics/Engineering)	1-2
or MATH 0350	Multivariable Calculus With Theory	
MATH 0520	Linear Algebra	1
or MATH 0540	Linear Algebra With Theory	
or PHYS 0720	Methods of Mathematical Physics	
MATH 1460	Complex Analysis	1
Four additional 1000 or 2000 level Physics courses		4
Two additional 1000 or 2000 level Math courses		2
PHYS 1990	Senior Conference Course ¹	1

Total Credits **18-20**

¹ A senior thesis is required. This is to be prepared in connection with under the direction of a faculty supervisor.