

Physics, BA

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

Before the third semester begins: MATH:1860 Calculus II and PHYS:1702 Physics II.

Before the fifth semester begins: PHYS:2703 Physics III, PHYS:2704 Physics IV, and up to four more courses in the major.

Before the seventh semester begins: two to four more courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: two or three more courses in the major.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Physics, BA

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
Research: students are strongly encouraged to be active participants in research within the department.		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
PHYS:1701	Physics I	4
MATH:1850	Calculus I ^b	4
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^c		3
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
Hours		16-17
Spring		
PHYS:1702	Physics II	4
MATH:1860	Calculus II	4
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion ^c		3
Hours		14-15

Second Year

Fall

PHYS:2703	Physics III	4
MATH:2700	Introduction to Linear Algebra ^d	4
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5

Hours 15-16

Spring

PHYS:2704	Physics IV	3 - 4
MATH:2850	Calculus III ^d	4
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5

Hours 14-16

Third Year

Fall

PHYS:3756	Intermediate Laboratory	3
Major: physics elective course numbered 3000 or above		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^g		1 - 3

Hours 14-17

Spring

Major: additional STEM course in chosen thematic area		3
Major: physics elective course numbered 3000 or above		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^g		3

Hours 13-14

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: additional STEM course in chosen thematic area		3
Major: physics elective course numbered 3000 or above		3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^c		3
Elective course ^g		3
Elective course ^g		3

Hours 15

Spring

Major: additional STEM course in chosen thematic area		3
Major: additional STEM course in chosen thematic area		3
Elective course ^g		3
Elective course ^g		3
Elective course ^g		3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)		

Hours 15

Total Hours 116-125

- a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.
- b Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- c GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- d While this course is not a major requirement, it is strongly recommended and a prerequisite for many physics and astronomy courses in the department.
- e Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
- f See General Catalog for a list of approved courses.
- g Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- h Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.