

Astronomy, BA

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in astronomy requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 43 s.h. of work for the major. The BA program requires fewer physics and mathematics courses than the BS program does, giving students a wider choice of electives. Students take calculus in addition to physics and astronomy courses, which include laboratories. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

The program is designed for students who wish to build considerable knowledge in astronomy but do not plan a research-oriented career in the field. It is appropriate for students planning careers in secondary school science teaching or science-related administration.

The BA with a major in astronomy requires the following courses or their equivalents. Substitutions may be allowed by exception through the department.

Requirements	Hours
Mathematics Courses	8
Physics Courses	24-29
Astronomy Courses	11

Mathematics Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
MATH:1850	Calculus I	4
MATH:1860	Calculus II	4
Or both of these:		
MATH:1550	Engineering Calculus I	4
MATH:1560	Engineering Calculus II	4

Physics Courses

If students select PHYS:3811 Electricity and Magnetism I, they must complete the prerequisite before they register for that course.

Course #	Title	Hours
These three courses:		
PHYS:1701	Physics I	4
PHYS:1702	Physics II	4
PHYS:2703	Physics III	4
Or these two courses:		
PHYS:1611	Introductory Physics I	4
PHYS:1612	Introductory Physics II	4
All of these:		
PHYS:2704	Physics IV	4
PHYS:3710	Intermediate Mechanics	3
PHYS:3756	Intermediate Laboratory	3
One of these:		
PHYS:3730	Statistical Physics	3
PHYS:4720	Introductory Optics	3
One of these:		

PHYS:3811	Electricity and Magnetism I	3
PHYS:3850	Electronics	4

Astronomy Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
ASTR:1771	Fundamental Astronomy I: The Solar System and Exoplanets	4
ASTR:1772	Fundamental Astronomy II: Evolution of Stars, Galaxies, and the Universe	4
ASTR:4850	Observational Techniques in Astronomy	3

Undergraduate majors who plan to pursue graduate study are advised to go as far as they can beyond the minimum requirements, including further work in mathematics. In planning this work, they should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rule: students earning a BA may apply a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in one department to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation, whether or not the coursework is accepted toward the requirements for the major. Students who earn more than 56 s.h. from one department may use the additional semester hours to satisfy requirements for the major (if the department accepts them), and the grades they earn become part of their grade-point average, but they cannot apply the additional semester hours to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation.

Double Major in Physics and Astronomy

Students working toward a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in physics and in astronomy must complete all requirements for both majors and must earn a minimum of 56 s.h. outside the Department of Physics and Astronomy in order to graduate. Students interested in earning a double major should consult with their advisors. See Requirements for a Bachelor's Degree on the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences website.