Astronomy, B.S.

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: calculus I-II and physics II.

Before the fifth semester begins: all of the remaining required math courses, physics III-IV, and two other courses in the major.

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

Before the eighth semester begins: 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.

Astronomy, B.S.

Course Title Hours
Academic Career
Any Semester
Research: students are strongly encouraged to be active participants in research within the department.
Students can pursue a double major in Astronomy and Physics and earn more than 56 s.h. from the department toward these degrees but must also complete at least 56 s.h. outside of the Department of Physics & Astronomy.

First Year
Fall
ASTR:1771 Introductory Astronomy I: Basic Astrophysics and Planetary Astronomy a 4
MATH:1850 Calculus I a, b 4
PHYS:1701 Physics I a 4
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric 3 - 4
CSI:1600 Success at Iowa 2

Hours 17-18

Spring
ASTR:1772 Introductory Astronomy II: Stellar, Galactic, and Extragalactic Astronomy 4
MATH:1860 Calculus II 4
PHYS:1702 Physics II 4
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature 3 - 4

Hours 15-16

Second Year
Fall
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences c 3
MATH:2700 Introduction to Linear Algebra 4
PHYS:2703 Physics III 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course d 4 - 5

Hours 15-16

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

Hours 14-16

Third Year
Fall
ASTR:3771 Introduction to Astrophysics I e 3
PHYS:3756 Intermediate Laboratory 3
PHYS:3811 Electricity and Magnetism I 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course d 4 - 5
Elective course f 1 - 3

Hours 14-17

Spring
ASTR:3772 Introduction to Astrophysics II e 3
PHYS:3812 Electricity and Magnetism II 3
PHYS:3710 Intermediate Mechanics 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course d 4 - 5

Hours 13-14

Fourth Year
Fall
PHYS:3741 Introduction to Quantum Mechanics I 3
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion c 3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives c 3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture c 3
Elective course f, g 3

Hours 15

Spring
ASTR:4850 Astronomical Laboratory e 3
PHYS:3742 Introduction to Quantum Mechanics II 3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts c 3
Elective course f, g 3
Elective course f, g 3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

Hours 15

Total Hours 118-127
a Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
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 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.
e Typically this course is offered every other year. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.
f 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.
g Students who plan to pursue graduate study are advised to go as far as they can beyond the minimum requirements. See General Catalog for a list of appropriate courses.
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.