

Astronomy, MS

Requirements

The Master of Science program in astronomy requires a minimum of 30 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must complete a minimum of 30 s.h. of graduate work, including at least 12 s.h. from the following course list, at least 3 s.h. numbered 5000 or above, and the remainder in courses numbered at least 4000 or above. At least 24 s.h. must be completed under the auspices of the University of Iowa after admission to the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Seminars do not count toward the minimum of 30 s.h. required for the degree. All students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.75.

Up to one-third of the program of study may be taken in related scientific fields (e.g., meteorology, geology, electrical engineering); selection of such courses is encouraged.

The degree is offered either with or without a thesis. The MS may be a terminal degree or a step toward a PhD in physics with a subprogram and a dissertation in astronomy or astrophysics. In either case, the final examination is oral, conducted by a committee of three faculty members.

Students must select at least 12 s.h. from these.

Course #	Title	Hours
ASTR:6782	Extragalactic Astronomy	3
ASTR:6785	The Interstellar Medium	3
ASTR:6790	Stellar Astrophysics	3
ASTR:6870	Radiative Processes in Astrophysics	3
ASTR:6880	High Energy Astrophysics	3
ASTR:7775	Special Topics in Astrophysics	1-3
ASTR:7830	Space and Astrophysical Plasma Physics	3
PHYS:7760	General Relativity	2-3
PHYS:7761	Cosmology	3

For the MS with thesis option, students may take no more than 6 s.h. in PHYS:7992 Individual Critical Study and ASTR:7991 Research: Astronomy; and for those who complete the MS without thesis and writing a critical essay, no more than 4 s.h. may be taken in those courses.