Physics, B.A.

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 II and physics II.

Before the fifth semester begins: physics III-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, B.A.

Course | Title | Hours
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**Academic Career**

Any Semester

Research: students are strongly encouraged to be active participants in research within the department.

**Academic Career**

First Year

Fall

PHYS:1701 | Physics I | 4
MATH:1850 | Calculus I | 4
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 | The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric | 3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences | 3
CSI:1600 | Success at Iowa | 2

**Hours** | **16-17**

Spring

PHYS:1702 | Physics II | 4
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4
MATH:1860 | Calculus II | 4
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion | 3

**Hours** | **14-15**

Second Year

Fall

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

**Hours** | **15-16**

Spring

PHYS:2704 | Physics IV | 3 - 4
MATH:2850 | Calculus III | 4
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5
Elective course | 1 - 3

**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 | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5
Elective course | 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 | 4 - 5
Elective course | 3

**Hours** | **13-14**

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: additional STEM course in chosen thematic area | 3
Major: additional STEM course in chosen thematic area | 3
Elective course | 3
Elective course | 3
Elective course | 3

**Hours** | **15**

Spring

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

**Hours** | **15**

Total Hours | **116-125**

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a Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
b Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
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.

While this course is not a major requirement, it is strongly recommended and a prerequisite for many physics and astronomy courses in the department.

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.

See General Catalog for a list of approved courses.

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.

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.