Physics, BS

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, MATH:2850 Introduction to Linear Algebra, MATH:2850 Calculus III, and up to two 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, BS

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.
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability a

First Year
Fall
PHYS:1701 Physics I  4
MATH:1850 Calculus I b  4
ENGL:1200 or RHEI:1030 The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric  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
ENGL:1200 or RHEI:1030 The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric  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  4
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture c  3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course a  4 - 5
Hours  15-16

Spring
PHYS:2704 Physics IV  4
PHYS:3710 Intermediate Mechanics  3
MATH:2850 Calculus III  4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course a  4 - 5
Hours  15-16

Third Year
Fall
PHYS:3741 Introduction to Quantum Mechanics I  3
PHYS:3811 Electricity and Magnetism I  3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives c  3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course a  4 - 5
Elective course e  1 - 3
Hours  14-17

Spring
PHYS:3742 Introduction to Quantum Mechanics II  3
PHYS:3812 Electricity and Magnetism II  3
PHYS:3850 Electronics f  4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course a  4 - 5
Hours  14-15

Fourth Year
Fall
PHYS:3730 Statistical Physics  3
PHYS:3756 Intermediate Laboratory f  3
Major: upper-level physics course  3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts c  3
Elective course e  3
Hours  15

Spring
Major: upper-level physics course  3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues c  3
Elective course e  3
Elective course e  3
Elective course e  3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)  y
Hours  15

Total Hours  118-126

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 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 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.

f Students who choose PHYS:3850 as one of their two required laboratory courses are advised to take it before they take PHYS:3756 Intermediate Laboratory.

g 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.