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:2700 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
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4
--- | --- | ---
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences c | 3
CSI:1600 | Success at Iowa | 2
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Hours | 16-17
Spring |  |  |  
PHYS:1702 | Physics II | 4
MATH:1860 | Calculus II | 4
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4
--- | --- | ---
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion c | 3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture c | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course d | 4 - 5
--- | --- | ---
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 d | 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 d | 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 d | 4 - 5
Elective course e | 1 - 3
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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 d | 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) |  |  |
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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
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 levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

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 Degree Services.