PHYSICS

Description
The Department of Physics and Astronomy offers programs leading to the bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees. Students preparing for either graduate study or a professional career in physics should pursue the bachelor of science degree with a professional option. For students who have special interests, the department offers options in optics and lasers, materials physics, and computational physics.

The courses required for the bachelor of arts degree in physics offer a broader program in science and the liberal arts suitable for a variety of pre-professional curricula and for interdisciplinary studies in areas including biophysics, chemical physics, and geophysics.

Admission
College Admission
The entrance requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences are the same as the UNL General Admission Requirements. Students who are admitted through the Admission by Review process may have certain conditions attached to their enrollment at UNL. These conditions are explained under “Removal of Deficiencies.”

In addition to these requirements, the College of Arts and Sciences strongly recommends a third and fourth year of one foreign language in high school. Four years of high school coursework in the same language will fulfill the College of Arts and Sciences’ language requirement. It will also allow students to continue language study at a more advanced level at UNL, and provide more opportunity to study abroad.

Advising
Academic and Career Advising
The Academic and Career Advising Center in 107 Oldfather is a centrally located and easily accessed resource for students in all majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. The professional academic advisors and career coaches offer 1-1 meetings on a walk-in and appointment basis weekdays. Advisors will provide assistance choosing majors and minors, understanding degree requirements and academic policies, completing paperwork, meeting deadlines, adding/dropping courses, and planning for graduation. In addition, career coaches can help students identify career options related to their interests and connect them with experiences like internships, research, and more that will prepare them for those career options. These specially trained advisors and coaches also serve as first point of contact in the College for all incoming freshmen and transfer students during New Student Enrollment.

Students in the College who have declared a major will be assigned an academic advisor who is their first point of contact for a variety of questions. Academic advisors help students be successful in adjusting to UNL overall as well as making progress toward degree completion. The assigned advisor may be located within the department of their primary major, or in the Advising Center. Students can identify their assigned advisor in MyRED on the academics tab. In addition, faculty advisors are experts in their discipline, including advanced coursework and requirements, opportunities for research, student organizations, and considering graduate school in the discipline. Students who have declared a pre-health or pre-law area of interest will also work with advisors in the Exploratory and Pre-Professional Advising Center (Explore Center) in 127 Love Library South, who are specially trained to guide students preparing to enter a professional school.

For complete and current information on advisors for majors, minors, or pre-professional areas, contact the Arts and Sciences Academic and Career Advising Center, 107 Oldfather Hall, 402-472-4190, http://cas.unl.edu/advising.

College Degree Requirements
College Distribution Requirements
Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science (16 hours + Language)
The College of Arts and Sciences distribution requirements are designed to ensure a breadth of courses within the liberal arts degree. By engaging in study in several different areas within the College, students develop the ability to learn in a variety of ways and apply their knowledge from a variety of perspectives. All requirements are in addition to University ACE requirements.

- A student may not use a single course to satisfy both an ACE outcome and a College distribution requirement.
- A student may not use a single course to satisfy more than one College Distribution Requirement.
- A student may not use a course from their primary major to satisfy the Breadth Requirement (F), but may apply an ancillary requirement of the primary major or a course from their second major toward this requirement.
- Independent study, directed readings, or internship courses cannot be used to satisfy a College Distribution Requirement.
- Cross-listed courses from interdisciplinary programs will be applied in the same area as courses from the home/cross-listed department.

College Distribution Requirements
CDR A - Written Communication
3
Select from courses approved for ACE outcome 1.

CDR B and BL - Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences with Lab
4
Select from biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, geology, meteorology, mathematics, physics and statistics. Must include one lab in the natural or physical sciences. Lab courses may be selected from biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, geology, meteorology and physics.

Some courses from geography and anthropology may also be used to satisfy the lab requirement above.¹

CDR C - Humanities
3
Select from classics, English, history, modern languages and literatures, philosophy, and religious studies.²

CDR D - Social Science
3
Select from anthropology, communication studies, geography, political science, psychology, or sociology.³

CDR E - Language
0-16
Fulfilled by the completion of the 6-credit-hour second-year sequence in a single foreign language in one of the following departments: Classics and religious studies, or modern languages and literatures. Instruction is currently available in Arabic, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Greek, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish.
A student who has completed the fourth-year level of one foreign language in high school is exempt from the language requirement, but encouraged to continue on in their language study.

**Scientific Base**

**Bachelor of Science Only (60 hours)**

The bachelor of science degree requires students to complete 60 hours in mathematical, physical and natural sciences. Approved courses for scientific base credit come from the following College of Arts and Sciences disciplines: actuarial science, anthropology (selected courses), astronomy, biochemistry (excluding BIOC 101), biological sciences (excluding BIOS 100 or BIOS 203), chemistry (excluding CHEM 101), computer science (excluding CSCE 10), geography (selected courses), geology, life sciences, mathematics (excluding courses below MATH 104), meteorology, microbiology, physics and statistics.

See your degree audit or a College of Arts and Sciences advisor for a complete list including individual classes that fall outside of the disciplines listed above. Up to 12 hours of scientific and technical courses offered by other colleges may be accepted toward this requirement with approval of a college advisor.

**Language Requirement**

UNL and the College of Arts and Sciences place great value on academic exposure and proficiency in a second language. The UNL entrance requirement of two years of the same foreign language or the College’s language distribution requirement (CDR E) will rarely be waived and only with relevant documentation. See the main College of Arts and Sciences page for more details.

**Residency Requirement**

Students must complete at least 30 of the 120 total hours required for their degree at UNL. Students must complete at least 1/2 of their major coursework including 6 hours at the 300 or 400 level in their major, and 15 of the 30 hours required at the 300 or 400 level in residence. Credit earned during abroad education may be used toward the residency requirement only if students register through UNL.

**ACE Requirements**

Consistent with the mission and values of the University, ACE is based on a shared set of four institutional objectives and ten student learning outcomes. The ACE program was approved by faculty in all eight undergraduate colleges and endorsed by the Faculty Senate, the student government, and the Academic Planning Committee in January 2008 for implementation in the fall 2009. ACE aligns with current national initiatives in general education.

To meet the ACE Program requirement, a student will complete a minimum of 3 credit hours for each of the ten ACE Student Learning Outcomes (a total of 30 ACE credit hours). See the ACE website at: http://
ace.unl.edu for the most current information and the most recently certified courses.

Catalog to Use

Students must fulfill the requirements stated in the catalog for the academic year in which they are first admitted to and enrolled as a degree-seeking student at UNL. In consultation with advisors, a student may choose to follow a subsequent catalog for any academic year in which they are admitted to and enrolled as a degree-seeking student at UNL in the College of Arts and Sciences. Students must complete all degree requirements from a single catalog year. Beginning in 1990-1991 the catalog which a student follows for degree requirements may not be more than 10 years old at the time of graduation.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of physics will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a conceptual understanding of the fundamental principles of physics.
2. Properly invoke these principles in the explanation of physical phenomena.
3. Apply these principles in the solution of problems.
4. Content, stipulated in individual course syllabi, will include, though not be limited to: the principles of force and motion and the relationships between them, the conservation, transfer, and transformations of energy, the fundamental electric and magnetic properties of matter, the fundamental properties of mechanical and electromagnetic waves, the laws of thermodynamics, and the basic application and extension of all these principles to nuclear and atomic physics.

Major Requirements

Bachelor of Science

Complete the core requirements plus one of the following options: Professional, Optics and Lasers, Materials Physics, or Computational Physics.

Core Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>PHYS 201</td>
<td>Modern Topics in Physics and Astronomy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 211</td>
<td>General Physics I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 221</td>
<td>General Physics Laboratory I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 212</td>
<td>General Physics II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 222</td>
<td>General Physics Laboratory II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 213</td>
<td>General Physics III</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 223</td>
<td>General Physics Laboratory III</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 231</td>
<td>Electrical and Electronic Circuits</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 311</td>
<td>Mechanics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 431</td>
<td>Thermal Physics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 451</td>
<td>Electromagnetic Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 461</td>
<td>Quantum Mechanics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credit Hours Subtotal: 31

Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MATH 106</td>
<td>Calculus I</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MATH 107</td>
<td>Calculus II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MATH 208</td>
<td>Calculus III</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credit Hours Subtotal: 16

MATH 221 Differential Equations | 3
Chemistry | 4

CHEM 113 Fundamental Chemistry I | 4
or CHEM 109 General Chemistry I | 4

Credit Hours Subtotal: 16

Option Courses

Complete one of the following options described below. | 17-20
Credit Hours Subtotal: 17-20
Total Credit Hours: 68-71

1 CHEM 113 is required for students declaring the Materials Physics Option.

Professional Option

The Professional Option is designed for students intending to pursue graduate study or employment in physics or a related scientific or engineering discipline.

Professional Option Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 441</td>
<td>Experimental Physics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 442</td>
<td>Experimental Physics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 452</td>
<td>Optics and Electromagnetic Waves</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 462</td>
<td>Atoms, Nuclei, and Elementary Particles</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select at least 6 hours of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PHYS 343 Physics of Lasers and Modern Optics | 3
PHYS 361 Concepts of Modern Physics | 3
PHYS 401 Computational Physics | 3
PHYS 422 | Introduction to Physics and Chemistry of Solids |
|         | ECEN 422 | | |
PHYS 443 Experimental Physics III | 3
PHYS 480 | Introduction to Lasers and Laser Applications |
|         | ECEN 480 | | |
ASTR 403 Galactic and Extragalactic Astronomy | 3
ASTR 404 Stellar Astrophysics | 3
ASTR 405 Physics of the Solar System | 3
ASTR 407 Physics of the Interstellar Medium | 3
MATH 314 Linear Algebra | 3
or MATH 424 Introduction to Partial Differential Equations | 3

Credit Hours Subtotal: 18

Total Credit Hours: 18

2 Up to 3 hours of PHYS 391 may be counted toward these 6 hours by substitution, provided that the research project is approved by the advisor.

Optics and Lasers Option

The Optics and Lasers Option is designed for students intending to pursue graduate study or employment in optical or laser physics or in related engineering disciplines.

Optics and Lasers Option Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 343</td>
<td>Physics of Lasers and Modern Optics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 441</td>
<td>Experimental Physics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 452</td>
<td>Optics and Electromagnetic Waves</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PHYS 480 / ECEN 480  Introduction to Lasers and Laser Applications  3
Select at least 6 hours of the following:  6
PHYS 361  Concepts of Modern Physics
PHYS 401  Computational Physics
PHYS 422 / ECEN 422  Introduction to Physics and Chemistry of Solids
PHYS 442  Experimental Physics II
PHYS 462  Atoms, Nuclei, and Elementary Particles
MATH 314  Linear Algebra
or MATH 424  Introduction to Partial Differential Equations
Credit Hours Subtotal:  18
Total Credit Hours  18

2  Up to 3 hours of PHYS 391 may be counted toward these 6 hours by substitution, provided that the research project is approved by the advisor.

Materials Physics Option
The Materials Physics Option is designed for students intending to pursue graduate study or employment in materials physics or in related disciplines.

Materials Physics Option Required courses
CHEM 114  Fundamental Chemistry II  3
CHEM 221  Elementary Quantitative Analysis  4
MATL 360  Elements of Materials Science  4
MATL 462  X-ray Diffraction  3
or MATL 471  Electron Microscopy of Materials
PHYS 422 / ECEN 422  Introduction to Physics and Chemistry of Solids  3
Select at least 3 hours of the following:  3
CHEM 261  Organic Chemistry
CHEM 481  Physical Chemistry I
ECEN 216  Electronics and Circuits II
PHYS 343  Physics of Lasers and Modern Optics
PHYS 401  Computational Physics
PHYS 441  Experimental Physics I
Credit Hours Subtotal:  20
Total Credit Hours  20

2  Up to 3 hours of PHYS 391 may be counted toward these 3 hours by substitution, provided that the research project is approved by the advisor.

Computational Physics Option
The Computational Physics Option is designed for students intending to pursue graduate study or employment in computational physics or in related disciplines.

Computational Physics Option Required courses
CSCE 155N  Computer Science I: Engineering and Science Focus  3
CSCE 156  Computer Science II  4
CSCE 251  Unix Programming Environment  1
or CSCE 252A  FORTRAN Programming
PHYS 401  Computational Physics  3
Select at least 6 hours of the following:  6
CSCE 235  Introduction to Discrete Structures
CSCE 310  Data Structures and Algorithms
CSCE 440 / MATH 440  Numerical Analysis I
CSCE 456  Parallel Programming
PHYS 343  Physics of Lasers and Modern Optics
PHYS 441  Experimental Physics I
Credit Hours Subtotal:  17
Total Credit Hours  17

2  Up to 3 hours of PHYS 391 may be counted toward these 6 hours by substitution, provided that the research project is approved by the advisor.

Bachelor of Arts
Core Requirements
The BA course requirements are designed for students pursuing careers for which the knowledge and methodology of physics are essential.

Physics
PHYS 201  Modern Topics in Physics and Astronomy  1
Select one of the following:  5
PHYS 211 & PHYS 221  General Physics I and General Physics Laboratory I (preferred)
PHYS 141  Elementary General Physics I
Select one of the following:  5
PHYS 212 & PHYS 222  General Physics II and General Physics Laboratory II (preferred)
PHYS 213  General Physics III
PHYS 223  General Physics Laboratory III  1
PHYS 231  Electrical and Electronic Circuits  3
PHYS 311  Mechanics  3
PHYS 441  Experimental Physics I  3
Credit Hours Subtotal:  25

Mathematics
MATH 106  Calculus I  5
MATH 107  Calculus II  4
MATH 208  Calculus III  4
MATH 221  Differential Equations  3
Credit Hours Subtotal:  16

Chemistry
Select one of the following:  4
CHEM 109  General Chemistry I
CHEM 111  Chemistry for Engineering and Technology
CHEM 113  Fundamental Chemistry I
Credit Hours Subtotal:  4
Total Credit Hours  45
### Specific Major Requirements

**Additional Physics Courses**

Select 9 hours of the following: 2

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 343</td>
<td>Physics of Lasers and Modern Optics</td>
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<td>PHYS 461</td>
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<td>PHYS 431</td>
<td>Thermal Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 480</td>
<td>Introduction to Lasers and Laser Applications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credit Hours Subtotal: 9

**Additional Related Courses**

Select 6 hours of math, statistics, engineering or science courses at the 300 or 400 level

Credit Hours Subtotal: 6

Total Credit Hours 15

2 Up to 3 hours of PHYS 391 may be counted toward these 6 hours by substitution, provided that the research project is approved by the advisor.

### Additional Major Requirements

**Grade Rules**

**C- and D Grades**
A grade of C or above is required for all courses in the major and minor.

**Pass/No Pass**
No course taken Pass/No Pass will be counted toward the major or minor.

### Requirements for Minor Offered by Department

**Plan A Minor (19 hours)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 201</td>
<td>Modern Topics in Physics and Astronomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 211</td>
<td>General Physics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYS 221</td>
<td>and General Physics Laboratory I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYS 212</td>
<td>and General Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYS 222</td>
<td>and General Physics Laboratory II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 141</td>
<td>Elementary General Physics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYS 142</td>
<td>and Elementary General Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 213</td>
<td>General Physics III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASTR 204</td>
<td>Introduction to Astronomy and Astrophysics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; ASTR 224</td>
<td>and Astronomy and Astrophysics Laboratory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three (3) additional hours chosen from physics courses listed as requirements for the major in physics

Credit Hours 3-4

Total Credit Hours 19

**Plan B Minor (15 hours)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 201</td>
<td>Modern Topics in Physics and Astronomy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one sequence of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 211</td>
<td>General Physics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYS 221</td>
<td>and General Physics Laboratory I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYS 212</td>
<td>and General Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYS 222</td>
<td>and General Physics Laboratory II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 141</td>
<td>Elementary General Physics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYS 142</td>
<td>and Elementary General Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 213</td>
<td>General Physics III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credit Hours 4

Total Credit Hours 15

**ASTR 103 Descriptive Astronomy**

- **Description:** Approach is essentially nonmathematical. Survey of the nature and motions of the planets, the sun, the stars, and their lives, galaxies, and the structure of the universe. Black holes, pulsars, quasars, and other objects of special interest included.
- **Credit Hours:** 3
- **Max credits per semester:** 3
- **Max credits per degree:** 3
- **Format:** LEC
- **Prerequisite for:** ASTR 113; ASTR 203
- **ACE:** ACE 4 Science

**ASTR 103H Honors: Descriptive Astronomy**

- **Prerequisites:** Good standing in the University Honors Program or by invitation
- **Notes:** Broad look at astronomy for non-science majors.
- **Description:** Approach is essentially non-mathematical, but simple algebra is employed where appropriate. Sun and solar system, the stars, galaxies, and cosmology. Black holes, pulsars, quasars, and other objects of special interest included. Emphasis on both "what is out there" and "how we know it".
- **Credit Hours:** 3
- **Max credits per semester:** 3
- **Max credits per degree:** 3
- **Format:** LEC
- **Prerequisite for:** ASTR 113; ASTR 203
- **ACE:** ACE 4 Science

**ASTR 113 Selected Topics in Astronomy**

- **Prerequisites:** ASTR 103 or permission.
- **Description:** A non-mathematical continuation and extension of ASTR 103, designed for students who would like a more detailed look at specific areas in astronomy. Possible topics: astronomy and relativity; life in the universe; pulsars, quasars, and black holes; evolution of galaxies, origin of the universe.
- **Credit Hours:** 3
- **Max credits per semester:** 3
- **Max credits per degree:** 3
- **Format:** LEC
- **ACE:** ACE 4 Science
ASTR 117 Life in the Universe
Crosslisted with: BIODS 117, GEOL 117
Description: Survey of what modern science tells us about the possibilities of life elsewhere in the universe. Topics include how the Earth formed and became suitable for life, how life arose on the Earth, the conditions under which life can thrive, places in the solar system that might support life, the existence of other solar systems that might provide suitable habitats, and attempts to find evidence of life on other planets.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 4 Science

ASTR 203 Introduction to Observational Astronomy
Prerequisites: ASTR 103/ASTR 103H or equivalent
Notes: The course consists of 2 lecture hours and three evening laboratory hours per week.
Description: Exploration of equipment and techniques needed to observe and investigate the motions and objects in the night sky.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC

ASTR 204 Introduction to Astronomy and Astrophysics
Prerequisites: PHYS 211/211H; MATH 107/107H; parallel ASTR 224
Notes: Survey of the sun, the solar system, stellar properties, stellar systems, interstellar matter, galaxies, and cosmology.
Description: Survey of the sun, the solar system, stellar properties, stellar systems, interstellar matter, galaxies, and cosmology.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: ASTR 224
ACE: ACE 4 Science

ASTR 224 Astronomy and Astrophysics Laboratory
Prerequisites: Parallel ASTR 204.
Description: Telescopic observations and laboratory experiments relating to observational astronomy. Obtaining digital astronomical images, the analysis of the resulting data and its astrophysical interpretation.
Credit Hours: 1
Max credits per semester: 1
Max credits per degree: 1
Format: LAB

ASTR 403 Galactic and Extragalactic Astronomy
Crosslisted with: ASTR 803
Prerequisites: ASTR 204 and PHYS 213, and permission.
Description: Introduction to the techniques for determining constituents and dynamics of our galaxy, including interstellar matter and theories of spiral arm formation. Extragalactic topics include basic characteristics of galaxies, active galaxies, quasars, evolution, and the cosmological distance scale.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

ASTR 404 Stellar Astrophysics
Crosslisted with: ASTR 804
Prerequisites: ASTR 204; PHYS 213; and permission.
Description: Stellar atmospheres, interiors, and evolution. Theoretical and observational aspects of stellar astronomy. The relation between observed parameters and theoretical parameters, star formation, stellar energy generation, and degenerate stars.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

ASTR 405 Physics of the Solar System
Crosslisted with: ASTR 805
Prerequisites: ASTR 204; MATH 107/107H; PHYS 142/142H or PHYS 212/212H.
Description: Celestial mechanics; tidal effects; planetary interiors; atmospheres and surfaces; comets; asteroids; and the origin of the solar system. Applying physics to the solution of solar system problems.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

ASTR 407 Physics of the Interstellar Medium
Crosslisted with: ASTR 807
Prerequisites: ASTR 204 and PHYS 213.
Description: Gaseous nebulae, interstellar dust, interstellar clouds and star forming regions. Theoretical and observational aspects of the various components of the interstellar medium. Includes the physics of emission nebulae, the properties of the interstellar dust, interstellar molecules and the properties of clouds in which star formation occurs.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

ASTR 498 Special Topics
Crosslisted with: ASTR 898
Prerequisites: ASTR 204 and permission.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 9
Format: LEC

PHYS 115 Descriptive Physics
Description: Qualitative approach to physics for the non-science major that emphasizes concepts and how they are used to understand the everyday physical world. Newton's description of motion and forces, the atomic view of matter, kinds and transformations of energy, the nature of electricity and magnetism, sound and light waves, and subatomic particles. Some topics selected according to student interest. Recommended for all students wanting a nonmathematical look at basic discoveries of physics.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 4 Science
PHYS 141 Elementary General Physics I
Prerequisites: MATH 102 or higher; or qualifying score on Math Placement Exam for MATH 106 or higher.
Notes: Credit toward the degree may be earned in only one of: PHYS 141, 141H and 151.
Description: Mechanics, heat, waves and sound.
Credit Hours: 5
Max credits per semester: 5
Max credits per degree: 5
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: AGRO 458, AGRO 858, NRES 458, NRES 858, SOIL 458; ATHT 249; FDST 363, MSYM 363; GEOL 400; MSYM 232; MSYM 262; MSYM 342; MSYM 354, SOIL 354, WATS 354; MSYM 364; MSYM 452, MSYM 852, WATS 452, AGRO 452; PHYS 142; PHYS 142H

PHYS 141H Honors: Elementary General Physics I
Prerequisites: Good standing with the University Honors Program; MATH 102 or higher; or qualifying score on Math Placement Exam for MATH 106 or higher.
Notes: Credit toward the degree may be earned in only one of: PHYS 141, 141H and 151.
Description: For course description, see PHYS 141.
Credit Hours: 5
Max credits per semester: 5
Max credits per degree: 5
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: AGRO 458, AGRO 858, NRES 458, NRES 858, SOIL 458; ATHT 249; FDST 363, MSYM 363; GEOL 400; MSYM 232; MSYM 262; MSYM 342; MSYM 354, SOIL 354, WATS 354; MSYM 364; MSYM 452, MSYM 852, WATS 452, AGRO 452; PHYS 142; PHYS 142H

PHYS 142 Elementary General Physics II
Prerequisites: PHYS 141 or 141H.
Description: Continuation of PHYS 141. Electricity, magnetism, optics, relativity, atomic and nuclear physics.
Credit Hours: 5
Max credits per semester: 5
Max credits per degree: 5
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: GEOL 344; PHYS 343; PHYS 361

PHYS 142H Honors: Elementary General Physics II
Prerequisites: Good standing in the University Honors program or by invitation; PHYS 141 or 141H.
Notes: Lab fee required.
Description: For course description, see PHYS 142.
Credit Hours: 5
Max credits per semester: 5
Max credits per degree: 5
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: GEOL 344; PHYS 343; PHYS 361

PHYS 141 Elements of Physics
Prerequisites: MATH 102 or higher; or qualifying score on Math Placement Exam for MATH 106 or higher.
Notes: Credit toward the degree may be earned in only one of: PHYS 141, 141H and 151.
Description: Short course, without laboratory, for those who need one semester of elementary general physics. Emphasis on understanding our physical environment through application of principles of mechanics, heat, sound, electricity, and light.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: ARCH 333, CNST 305; ATHT 249; CNST 306; FDST 363, MSYM 109L; MSYM 232; MSYM 262; MSYM 342, MSYM 354, SOIL 354, WATS 354; MSYM 364; MSYM 452, MSYM 852, WATS 452, AGRO 452; PHYS 153
ACE: ACE 4 Science

PHYS 151 Elements of Physics Laboratory
Prerequisites: PHYS 151 or parallel.
Notes: Optional lab to accompany PHYS 151.
Description: Laboratory experiments in mechanics, heat, and wave motion.
Credit Hours: 1
Max credits per semester: 1
Max credits per degree: 1
Format: LAB
Prerequisite for: CNST 306

PHYS 198 Special Topics in Physics
Description: Topic varies.
Credit Hours: 1-6
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 6
Max credits per degree: 6
Format: LEC

PHYS 201 Modern Topics in Physics and Astronomy
Prerequisites: Must be a PHYS major or minor with freshman or sophomore status.
Description: Seminar/workshop that introduces students to topics in modern physics research in basic and applied areas. Students given an understanding of how their studies relate to current progress in physics and astronomy and to prepare for careers in physics-related disciplines.
Credit Hours: 1
Max credits per semester: 1
Max credits per degree: 1
Format: LEC
PHYS 211 General Physics I
Prerequisites: One year high school physics or PHYS 141 or 141H or 151 or permission; MATH 106 or parallel
Description: Calculus-based course intended for students in engineering and the physical sciences. Mechanics, fluids, wave motion, and heat.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: AREN 211; ASTR 204; BSEN 244; BSEN 317; ECEN 211; GEOL 400; MECH 223; MECH 223H; MECH 250; METR 205; METR 311; METR 323; MSYM 232; MSYM 262; MSYM 342; MSYM 354; SOIL 354; WATS 354; MSYM 364; MSYM 452, MSYM 852, WATS 452, AGRO 452; PHYS 212; PHYS 212H; PHYS 221
ACE: ACE 4 Science

PHYS 211H Honors: General Physics I
Prerequisites: Physics major or good standing with the University Honors Program; MATH 106 or parallel.
Notes: Ambitious students who are not in the Honors Program are encouraged to request permission to enroll.
Description: For course description, see PHYS 211.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: AREN 211; ASTR 204; BSEN 244; BSEN 317; ECEN 211; GEOL 400; MECH 223; MECH 223H; MECH 250; METR 205; METR 311; METR 323; MSYM 232; MSYM 262; MSYM 342; MSYM 354; SOIL 354; WATS 354; MSYM 364; MSYM 452, MSYM 852, WATS 452, AGRO 452; PHYS 212; PHYS 212H; PHYS 221
ACE: ACE 4 Science

PHYS 212 General Physics II
Prerequisites: PHYS 211 or 211H; MATH 107 or 107H or parallel.
Description: Continuation of PHYS 211. Electricity, magnetism, and optics.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: AGEN 325, BSEN 325; ECEN 306; GEOL 344; MATL 260; MATL 360; MECH 200; MECH 200H; MECH 421, MECH 821, ENGR 421; PHYS 213; PHYS 213H; PHYS 222; PHYS 231; PHYS 311; PHYS 343; PHYS 361
ACE: ACE 4 Science

PHYS 212H Honors: General Physics II
Prerequisites: Physics major or good standing with the University Honors Program; PHYS 211 or 211H; MATH 107 or 107H or parallel.
Notes: Ambitious students who are not in the Honors Program are encouraged to request permission to enroll.
Description: For course description, see PHYS 212.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: AGEN 325, BSEN 325; ECEN 306; GEOL 344; MATL 260; MATL 360; MECH 200; MECH 200H; MECH 421, MECH 821, ENGR 421; PHYS 213; PHYS 213H; PHYS 222; PHYS 231; PHYS 311; PHYS 343; PHYS 361
ACE: ACE 4 Science

PHYS 213 General Physics III
Prerequisites: PHYS 212 or 212H; MATH 208 or 208H or parallel.
Description: Continuation of PHYS 212. Relativity, quantum mechanics, atoms, and nuclei.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: PHYS 223

PHYS 213H Honors: General Physics III
Prerequisites: Physics major or good standing with the University Honors Program; PHYS 212 or 212H; MATH 208 or 208H, or parallel.
Notes: Ambitious students who are not in the Honors Program are encouraged to request permission to enroll.
Description: For course description, see PHYS 213.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: PHYS 223

PHYS 221 General Physics Laboratory I
Prerequisites: PHYS 211 or 211H or parallel.
Notes: Optional lab to accompany PHYS 211.
Description: Experiments in mechanics, heat and wave motion.
Credit Hours: 1
Max credits per semester: 1
Max credits per degree: 1
Format: LAB

PHYS 222 General Physics Laboratory II
Prerequisites: PHYS 212 or 212H or parallel.
Notes: Optional lab to accompany PHYS 212.
Description: Laboratory experiments in electromagnetism and optics.
Credit Hours: 1
Max credits per semester: 1
Max credits per degree: 1
Format: LAB

PHYS 223 General Physics Laboratory III
Prerequisites: PHYS 213 or 213H or parallel.
Notes: Optional lab to accompany PHYS 213.
Description: Experiments in atomic and nuclear physics.
Credit Hours: 1
Max credits per semester: 1
Max credits per degree: 1
Format: LAB

PHYS 231 Electrical and Electronic Circuits
Prerequisites: PHYS 212 and 222.
Description: Diode, transistor, and operational amplifier circuits and analog applications; gates, flip-flops, and elementary digital electronics.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
PHYS 260 Liberal Arts Physics: Matter and Motion
Prerequisites: MATH 101 or higher; or qualifying score on Math Placement Exam for MATH 102, 104, or higher.
Notes: PHYS 260 and 261 are independent and may be taken in any order.
Description: Basic concepts of physics in a historical context and in relationship to the intellectual development of humankind. Mechanics, heat gravitation, and structure of the universe.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: PHYS 262

PHYS 261 Liberal Arts Physics: Atoms and Fields
Prerequisites: MATH 101 or higher; or qualifying score on Math Placement Exam for MATH 102, 104, or higher.
Description: Basic concepts of physics in a historical context and in relationship to the intellectual development of humankind. Atomic structure of matter, states of matter, waves, and light. Practical consequences of the properties of matter and physical phenomena.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

PHYS 262 Physical Sciences by Inquiry
Prerequisites: PHYS 260 or PHYS 261 or parallel.
Notes: Intended for students planning to be elementary or middle-level teachers
Description: Selected physical science concepts using inquiry methods.
Credit Hours: 1
Max credits per semester: 1
Max credits per degree: 1
Format: LAB

PHYS 298 Special Topics in Physics
Prerequisites: Permission.
Credit Hours: 1-12
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 12
Max credits per degree: 12
Format: LAB

PHYS 311 Mechanics
Prerequisites: PHYS 212 or 212H or parallel, MATH 221 or 221H or parallel.
Description: Review of vector operations and of the kinematics and dynamics of a particle. Dynamics of a system of particles, motion of rigid bodies, central force problems, collisions, Lagrangian techniques, oscillations, and coupled oscillators.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

PHYS 343 Physics of Lasers and Modern Optics
Prerequisites: PHYS 142 or 142H or 212 or 212H.
Description: Physical principles and techniques of lasers and modern optics. Emphasis on practical experience with state-of-the-art techniques and applications.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 10 Integrated Product

PHYS 361 Concepts of Modern Physics
Prerequisites: PHYS 142 or 212 with a grade of C+ or better.
Description: Some of the concepts and ideas underlying modern areas of physics through readings from non-technical works by noted physicists and science writers. Includes quantum mechanics, relativity, cosmology, chaos, and examples of modern technology.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

PHYS 391 Undergraduate Research
Prerequisites: Permission.
Description: Research participation.
Credit Hours: 1-4
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 8
Format: IND

PHYS 399H Honors Course
Prerequisites: Permission.
Credit Hours: 1-4
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: IND

PHYS 401 Computational Physics
Crosslisted with: PHYS 801
Prerequisites: PHYS 311 or parallel.
Description: Re-formulation of physics problems for solution on a computer, control of errors in numerical work, and programming.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

PHYS 422 Introduction to Physics and Chemistry of Solids
Crosslisted with: PHYS 822, ECEN 422, ECEN 822
Prerequisites: PHYS 213 or CHEM 481/881, MATH 221/821.
Description: Introduction to structural, thermal, electrical, and magnetic properties of solids, based on concepts of atomic structure, chemical bonding in molecules, and electron states in solids. Principles underlying molecular design of materials and solid-state devices.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
PHYS 431 Thermal Physics
Crosslisted with: PHYS 831
Prerequisites: PHYS 213
Description: Thermal phenomena from the point of view of thermodynamics, kinetic theory, and statistical mechanics.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

PHYS 441 Experimental Physics I
Crosslisted with: PHYS 841
Prerequisites: PHYS 213, 223 and 231
Notes: Lab fee required.
Description: Methods and techniques of modern experimental physics.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: PHYS 442, PHYS 842
ACE: ACE 10 Integrated Product

PHYS 442 Experimental Physics II
Crosslisted with: PHYS 842
Prerequisites: PHYS 441/841 or permission
Notes: Lab fee required.
Description: Continuation of PHYS 441/841.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: PHYS 443, PHYS 843
ACE: ACE 10 Integrated Product

PHYS 443 Experimental Physics III
Crosslisted with: PHYS 843
Prerequisites: PHYS 442/842 or permission.
Description: Continuation of PHYS 442/842.
Credit Hours: 1-3
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

PHYS 451 Electromagnetic Theory
Crosslisted with: PHYS 851
Prerequisites: PHYS 213; MATH 221/821.
Description: Theory of electric and magnetic fields and their interaction with charges and currents, Maxwell's equations, electric and magnetic properties of matter.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: PHYS 452, PHYS 852

PHYS 452 Optics and Electromagnetic Waves
Crosslisted with: PHYS 852
Prerequisites: PHYS 451/851
Description: Production of electromagnetic waves, wave guides and cavities, properties of waves, plane waves, reflection and refraction, interference and coherence phenomena, polarization. Optical properties of matter.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

PHYS 461 Quantum Mechanics
Crosslisted with: PHYS 861
Prerequisites: PHYS 213 and 311; or permission.
Description: Basic concepts and formalism of quantum mechanics with applications to simple systems.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

PHYS 462 Atoms, Nuclei, and Elementary Particles
Crosslisted with: PHYS 862
Prerequisites: PHYS 461
Description: Basic concepts and experimental foundation for an understanding of the physics of atoms, nuclei, and elementary particles.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

PHYS 480 Introduction to Lasers and Laser Applications
Crosslisted with: ECEN 480, ECEN 880, PHYS 880
Prerequisites: PHYS 213/(UNO) PHYS 2130.
Description: Physics of electronic transition production stimulated emission of radiation. Threshold conditions for laser oscillation. Types of lasers and their applications in engineering.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

PHYS 491 Special Topics in Physics
Crosslisted with: PHYS 891
Prerequisites: PHYS 213 and permission.
Description: Topics vary.
Credit Hours: 1-3
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 9
Format: LEC

PLEASE NOTE
This document represents a sample 4-year plan for degree completion with this major. Actual course selection and sequence may vary and should be discussed individually with your college or department academic advisor. Advisors also can help you plan other experiences to enrich your undergraduate education such as internships, education abroad, undergraduate research, learning communities, and service learning and community-based learning.
Physics (B.A.)
Physics - Professional (B.S.)

Career Information

The following represents a sample of the internships, jobs and graduate school programs that current students and recent graduates have reported.

Transferable Skills

• Make predictions using mathematical, statistical, and scientific modeling methods
• Conduct and present research to large and small groups
• Apply mathematical and scientific skills to solve real-world problems
• Analyze and explain data
• Collaborate with a team to develop solutions
• Compose convincing arguments and present logical information
• Comprehend and critically evaluate complex information
• Define problems and identifying causes
• Design and implement research experiments
• Develop and defend evidence based arguments
• Communicate results of scientific experiments to scientific and non-scientific audiences
• Provide a creative, inquisitive approach to problem-solving
• Read, understand, and critically review scientific information
• Understand and practice proper laboratory safety procedures
• Understand and use proper laboratory and technical skills and instruments

Jobs of Recent Graduates

• Process Engineer I, Garmin - Olathe KS
• Software Developer, Applied Underwriters - Omaha NE
• Science Teacher, Lincoln Public Schools - Lincoln NE
• Software Developer Engineer, CSG International - Omaha NE
• Systems Programmer, Bryan Health - Lincoln NE
• Loan Advisor, Nelnet - Omaha NE
• Teaching Assistant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln NE
• Science teacher 9-12, Millard Public Schools - Omaha NE
• Technician, JA Woollam - Lincoln NE

Internships

• Intern, UNL Holland Computing - Lincoln NE

Graduate & Professional Schools

• Ph.D., Physics, Stanford University - Stanford CA
• Ph.D., Astronomy, University of California-Berkeley - Berkeley CA
• Ph.D., Geophysics, California Institute of Technology - Pasadena CA
• Ph.D., Physics, University of Wisconsin-Madison - Madison WI
• Ph.D., Physics, University of California-San Diego - San Diego CA
• Ph.D., Physics, Twin Cities-University of Minnesota - Minneapolis MN
• Ph.D., Chemistry, California Institute of Technology -
• Ph.D., Physics, University of California, Los Angeles - Los Angeles CA
• Master’s Degree, Science Teaching, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln NE
• Ph.D., Physics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln NE