Astronomy–Physics, B.S.

Requirements

University General Education Requirements

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/requirementsforundergraduatetext) section of the Guide.

General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

College of Letters & Science Degree Requirements: Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

Mathematics

Complete two courses of 3+ credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level in MATH, COMP SCI, or STAT subjects. A maximum of one course in each of COMP SCI and STAT subjects counts toward this requirement.

Foreign Language

Complete the third unit of a foreign language.

L&S Breadth

Complete:
- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include at least 6 credits of Literature; and
- 12 credits of Social Science; and
- 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include 6 credits of Biological Science and 6 credits of Physical Science.

Non–L&S Students Pursuing an L&S Major

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

Requirements for the Major

The major requires a minimum of 34 credits in the field of specialization, with at least 6 of these credits in ASTRON and at least 28 credits in PHYSICS.

Course Requirements for the Major Are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astronomy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ASTRON 310</td>
<td>Stellar Astrophysics ²</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASTRON 320</td>
<td>The Interstellar Medium</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ASTRON 330</td>
<td>Galaxies ²</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ASTRON 335</td>
<td>Cosmology²</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ASTRON 340</td>
<td>Solar System Astrophysics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASTRON 500</td>
<td>Techniques of Modern Observational Astrophysics ²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete one of the following sequences for Introductory Physics: ³</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sequence 1:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 247</td>
<td>A Modern Introduction to Physics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYSICS 248</td>
<td>and A Modern Introduction to Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYSICS 249</td>
<td>and A Modern Introduction to Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sequence 2:</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 201</td>
<td>General Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYSICS 202</td>
<td>and General Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYSICS 205</td>
<td>and Modern Physics for Engineers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sequence 3:</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 207</td>
<td>General Physics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYSICS 208</td>
<td>and General Physics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYSICS 241</td>
<td>and Introduction to Modern Physics</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Mechanics, Electromagnetic Fields, & Thermal Physics (complete all):
PHYSICS 311  Mechanics
PHYSICS 322  Electromagnetic Fields
PHYSICS 415  Thermal Physics

Atomic & Quantum Physics (complete either):

PHYSICS 448 & PHYSICS 449  Atomic and Quantum Physics
or
PHYSICS 531  Introduction to Quantum Mechanics

Complete one 300-level or higher laboratory course:

PHYSICS 307  Intermediate Laboratory-Mechanics and Modern Physics
PHYSICS 321  Electric Circuits and Electronics
PHYSICS 407  Advanced Laboratory

Additional PHYSICS to reach minimum of 28 credits

Total Credits 34

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

• 2.000 GPA in all ASTRON, all PHYSICS, and all major courses
• 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits in residence
• 15 credits in ASTRON and PHYSICS, taken on campus

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Major in consultation with the Astronomy–Physics undergraduate advisor(s).

HONORS IN THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

• Earn a 3.300 University GPA
• Earn a 3.500 GPA for all ASTRON and PHYSICS courses, and all courses accepted in the major, at the 300 level or higher
• Complete the following coursework:
  • Four 300-level or higher ASTRON courses, with a 3.500 GPA
  • A two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in ASTRON 681 and ASTRON 682, with a grade of AB or better (for a total of 6 credits).

DISTINCTION IN THE MAJOR

Distinction in the Major requires no declaration, and is awarded at the time of graduation. Students may not receive Distinction and Honors in the same major. To receive Distinction in the Major, students must have met the following requirements:

• Earn a 3.300 University GPA
• Earn a 3.300 GPA in all major and major subject courses
• Complete 6 additional credits in advanced-level Astronomy beyond the minimum required for the major.

FOOTNOTES

1 ASTRON 103 and ASTRON 104 are not required for majors.
2 ASTRON 310 is a prerequisite for ASTRON 330, ASTRON 335, and ASTRON 500.
3 E M A 201, E M A 202, and M E 240 count toward the 28 credits of PHYSICS requirement. E M A 201 & E M A 202, or E M A 201 & M E 240 count as a first semester, introductory course (e.g., PHYSICS 247, PHYSICS 201, PHYSICS 207).
4 ASTRON 300-699 and PHYSICS 300-699 are upper-level in the major.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree

To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency

Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. “In residence” means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. “In residence” credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work

Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.