

BS in Physics (694821)

2020-2021 Program Requirements (63 - 64 Credit Hours)

No more than 3 hours of D credit is allowed in major courses.

REQUIREMENT 1 Complete 22 courses

NOTE: PHSCS 191 SHOULD BE TAKEN THE FIRST SEMESTER AS A FRESHMAN.

PHSCS 291 SHOULD BE TAKEN THE FIRST SEMESTER AS A SOPHOMORE.

C S 142 - Introduction to Computer Programming	3.0
*MATH 113 - Calculus 2	4.0
PHSCS 121 - Introduction to Newtonian Mechanics	3.0
PHSCS 123 - Introduction to Waves, Optics, and Thermodynamics	3.0
PHSCS 191 - Introduction to Physics Careers and Research 1	0.5
PHSCS 220 - Introduction to Electricity and Magnetism	3.0
*PHSCS 222 - Modern Physics	3.0
PHSCS 225 - Introduction to Experimental Physics	2.0
PHSCS 230 - Computational Physics Lab 1	1.0
PHSCS 240 - Design, Fabrication, and Use of Scientific Apparatus	2.0
PHSCS 245 - Experiments in Contemporary Physics	2.0
PHSCS 291 - Introduction to Physics Careers and Research 2	0.5
PHSCS 318 - Introduction to Mathematical Physics	3.0
PHSCS 321 - Mechanics	3.0
PHSCS 330 - Computational Physics Lab 2	1.0
PHSCS 360 - Statistical and Thermal Physics	3.0
PHSCS 430 - Computational Physics Lab 3	1.0
PHSCS 441 - Electricity and Magnetism	3.0
PHSCS 442 - Electrodynamics	3.0
PHSCS 451 - Quantum Mechanics	3.0
PHSCS 452 - Applications of Quantum Mechanics	3.0
PHSCS 471 - Principles of Optics	3.0

REQUIREMENT 2 Complete 1 option

OPTION 2.1 Complete 2 courses

MATH 302 - Mathematics for Engineering 1	4.0
MATH 303 - Mathematics for Engineering 2	4.0

OPTION 2.2 Complete 3 courses

MATH 313 - (Not currently offered)	
MATH 314 - Calculus of Several Variables	3.0
MATH 334 - Ordinary Differential Equations	3.0

OPTION 2.3 Complete 4 courses

MATH 213 - Elementary Linear Algebra	2.0
MATH 215 - Computational Linear Algebra	1.0
MATH 314 - Calculus of Several Variables	3.0
MATH 334 - Ordinary Differential Equations	3.0

REQUIREMENT 3 Complete 1 option

SENIOR THESIS:

Complete a senior thesis, including the following:

A. Choose a research mentor and group as early as possible, starting with information in Phscs 191 and 291, and discussion with faculty, your advisor and senior thesis coordinator. It is best to start as a freshman or sophomore. Interdisciplinary work in other departments or in internships is possible.

OPTION 3.1 Complete 2.0 hours from the following course(s)

B.

PHSCS 498R - Senior Thesis	3.0v
----------------------------	------

You may take up to 2 credit hours.

REQUIREMENT 4

Students are required to take the Physics "Major Field Test" the last semester before they graduate. The test is a standardized assessment of undergraduate physics written by ETS (Educational Testing Service). The ETS website contains a description of the exam and sample problems: <http://www.ets.org/mft/about/content/physics>. Results of the exam do not appear on the transcript or affect the GPA. Students should contact the Physics undergraduate secretary to make arrangements for taking the exam; typically it's done in the Testing Center before mid-semester.

Note 1: Students planning careers in experimental, applied, or industrial physics should complete Stat 201.

Note 2: All students will benefit, through courses or individual study, by learning programming skills and numerical methods beyond what you are taught in C S 142 and our computational physics courses. Consider the following: C S courses, Math 410, Me En 373.

Note 3: Students planning graduate school in physics should learn complex analysis. Consider the following: Math 332, Phscs 601, 602.

THE DISCIPLINE:

Over the centuries physicists and astronomers have studied the fundamental principles that govern the structure and dynamics of matter and energy in the physical world, from subatomic particles to the cosmos. Physicists also apply this understanding to the development of new technologies. For example, physicists invented the first lasers and semiconductor electronic devices.

Physics and astronomy students learn to approach complex problems in science and technology from a broad background in mechanics, electricity and magnetism, statistical and thermal physics, quantum mechanics, relativity, and optics. The tools they develop at BYU include problem solving by mathematical and computational modeling, as well as experimental discovery and analysis. All students gain professional experience in a research, capstone, or internship project, usually in close association with faculty. Together these experiences can provide excellent preparation for employment or for graduate studies in physics, other sciences, engineering, medicine, law, or business.

Most physicists and astronomers work in research and development in industrial, government, or university labs to solve new problems in technology and science. They also share the beauty discovered in our physical universe by teaching in high schools, colleges, and universities.

For more information, see www.physics.byu.edu/undergraduate.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

A degree in physics or physics-astronomy can provide:

1. Preparation for those who intend to enter industrial or governmental service as engineers, technicians, physicists, or astronomers.
2. Education for those who intend to pursue graduate work in physics or astronomy.
3. Education in the subject matter of physics for prospective teachers of the physical sciences.
4. Undergraduate education for those who will pursue graduate work in the professions: business (e.g., an MBA), law (especially patent law), medicine, etc.

BS in Physics (694821)

2020-2021

5. Fundamental background for other physical sciences and engineering, in preparation for graduate study in these fields.
6. Physics fundamentals required by the biological science, medical, dental, nursing, and related programs.

For more information on careers in your major, see www.physics.byu.edu/undergraduate/careers.

MAP DISCLAIMER

While every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy, there are some student populations that could have exceptions to listed requirements. Please refer to the university catalog and your college advisement center/department for complete guidelines.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Department of Physics and Astronomy

Brigham Young University
N-283 ESC
Provo, UT 84602
Telephone: (801) 422-4361
physics_office@byu.edu

ADVISEMENT CENTER INFORMATION

Physical and Mathematical Sciences College Advisement Center

Brigham Young University
N-181 ESC
Provo, UT 84602
Telephone: (801) 422-2674