

PHYSICS

Programs

The physics major is broken into two parts. First, there are a block of foundational classes that all physics majors are required to complete. In addition, by the start of their junior year, every student must select an academic track to pursue. The track you pick determines the remaining courses required by the physics major. While it is possible to change tracks later, not every course is offered annually which can make it difficult to fulfill changing major requirements.

To fulfill the physics major, students must complete the following foundation classes:

Physics Major, Foundation Classes

and one of the following tracks:

- Physics Major, General Physics Track
- Physics Major, Education Track
- Physics Major, Health Studies Track

The department also offers a 16-credit minor.

Physics Minor

Provision for Physics Advanced Placement Exam C

Students who have passed the AP Physics I exam with a score of 4 or 5 will receive credit for PHYS 1145. Students who pass the AP Physics C: Mechanics exam with a score of 4 or 5 need not take PHYS 1171 and may begin with PHYS 1172 in the spring. Students who have passed both AP Physics C: Mechanics and AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism exams with scores of 4 or 5 may advance directly to the sophomore physics course, PHYS 2285 Modern Physics, without taking the PHYS 1171 and PHYS 1172 prerequisites. Note: Per the general Advanced Placement policy of the University, only 4 credits are awarded toward graduation for having passed the two AP Physics C exams. Students who do not take PHYS 1171 and PHYS 1172 under this provision will need to take one additional elective in physics in order to complete the required number of credits for the major in physics.