Physics

Physics Major

Students who complete a major in Physics are prepared for careers in industrial and governmental research and development and for graduate study in physics, astronomy, engineering, medicine, materials science, and environmental science. In-depth preparation is also provided for teaching in secondary schools.

Students interested in Physics Education are encouraged to declare a double major in their discipline and in education (i.e., Physics Education (http://bulletin.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2017-18/undergraduate/colleges/human-development-education/education/teaching-specialty-physics) and Physics). Such double majors may be earned by the successful completion of a few additional credits. Students should contact their adviser, the School of Education (https://www.ndsu.edu/education) , or the Office of Registration and Records (https://www.ndsu.edu/registrar) for details and are encouraged to declare their primary and secondary majors with the Office of Registration and Records, Ceres Hall 110 (https://www.ndsu.edu/alphaindex/buildings/Building::240) .

Optical Science and Engineering Option

This option includes an interdisciplinary optics/photonics sequence of courses taught by the Departments of Physics (https://www.ndsu.edu/physics) and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (https://www.ndsu.edu/ece) using a state-of-the-art optics teaching laboratory. This is the only regional program of its type. Optics and lasers are enabling technologies and are applied in most high-tech experiments, communications, devices, medical diagnostics, media, etc. There are more than 5,000 optics-related companies in the United States alone, but even more important, photonics provides the technical foundation for many more. Optical science and engineering has exploded to encompass nearly all fields of science and technology with a consequent shortage of individuals trained in the field. The optical science and engineering option will enhance any job search.

Physics Minor

A Physics minor consists of 19 credits, of which at least eight credits must be completed at NDSU.

Major Requirements

Major: Physics - Standard

Degree Type: B.A. or B.S.
Minimum Degree Credits to Graduate: 122

General Education Requirements for Baccalaureate Degree

- A list of approved general education courses is available here (http://bulletin.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2017-18/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/general-education/#genedcoursestext) .
- General education courses may be used to satisfy requirements for both general education and the major, minor, and program emphases, where applicable. Students should carefully review the major, minor, and program emphases requirements for minimum grade restrictions, should they apply.

Code	Title	Credits
Communication (C)		12
ENGL 110	College Composition I	
ENGL 120	College Composition II	
COMM 110	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	
Upper Division Writing †		
Quantitative Reasoning (R) †		3
Science and Technology (S) †		10
Humanities and Fine Arts (A) †		6
Social and Behavioral Sciences (B) †		6
Wellness (W) †		2
Cultural Diversity (D) *†		
Global Perspectives (G) *†		
Total Credits		39

* May be satisfied by completing courses in another General Education category.

† May be satisfied with courses required in the major. Review major requirements to determine if a specific upper division writing course is required.

College Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree – An additional 12 credits Humanities and Social Sciences and proficiency at the second year level in a modern foreign language. *		12
Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree – An additional 6 credits in Humanities or Social Sciences *		6

* Humanities and Social Sciences may be fulfilled by any course having the following prefix: ADHM, ANTH, ARCH, ART, CJ, CLAS, COMM, ECON, ENGL, FREN, GEOG, GERM, HDFS, HIST, LA, LANG, MUSC, PHIL, POLS, PSYC, RELS, SOC, SPAN, THEA, WGS, or any course from the approved list of general education courses in humanities and social sciences (general education categories A and B). These credits must come from outside the department of the student's major.

Major Requirements - Standard

A grade of 'C' or better is required for all PHYS and AST prefix courses.

Code	Title	Credits
Physics Major Requirements (Standard)		
PHYS 171	Introductory Projects in Physics	1
PHYS 251 & 251L	University Physics I and University Physics I Laboratory (May satisfy general education category S)	5
PHYS 251R	University Physics I Recitation	1
PHYS 252 & 252L	University Physics II and University Physics II Laboratory (May satisfy general education category S)	5
PHYS 252R	University Physics II Recitation	1
PHYS 350	Modern Physics	3
PHYS 355	Classical Mechanics	3
PHYS 360	Modern Physics II	3
PHYS 361	Electromagnetic Theory (or PHY 370: Electromagnetic Theory from MSUM)	3
PHYS 370	Introduction to Computational Physics	3
PHYS 411 & 411L	Optics for Scientists & Engineers and Optics for Scientists and Engineers Lab	4
PHYS 462	Thermal and Statistical Physics	3
PHYS 485	Quantum Mechanics I	3
PHYS 486	Quantum Mechanics II	3
PHYS 488	Senior Project I	1
PHYS 489	Senior Project II	2
Physics Electives: Select two from the following:		6
PHYS 215	Research For Undergraduates	
PHYS 413	Lasers for Scientists and Engineers	
PHYS 415	Elements of Photonics	
PHYS 463	Statistical Mechanics	
PHYS 481	Condensed Matter Physics	
MSUM AST	Astronomy courses (300/400 level) with departmental approval	
Related Required Courses		
MATH 129	Basic Linear Algebra	3
or MATH 429	Linear Algebra	
MATH 165	Calculus I (May satisfy general education category R)	4
MATH 166	Calculus II	4
MATH 265	Calculus III	4
MATH 266	Introduction to Differential Equations	3
MATH Electives	(400-level (MATH 488 & MATH 489 are recommended)	6
Select one of the following chemistry courses (150/160 is recommended):		4

CHEM 150 & CHEM 160	Principles of Chemistry I and Principles of Chemistry Laboratory I	
CHEM 121 & 121L	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory	
Select one of the following chemistry courses (151/161 recommended):		4
CHEM 151 & CHEM 161	Principles of Chemistry II and Principles of Chemistry Laboratory II	
CHEM 122 & 122L	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory	
CSCI 160	Computer Science I	4
or ECE 173	Introduction to Computing	
CSCI 161	Computer Science II	4
Total Credits		90

Program Notes

- Except for courses offered only as pass/fail grading, no course may be taken Pass/Fail.

Major Requirements

Major: Physics with Optical Science and Engineering Option

Degree Type: B.A. or B.S.
Minimum Degree Credits to Graduate: 122

General Education Requirements for Baccalaureate Degree

- A list of approved general education courses is available here (http://bulletin.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2017-18/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/general-education/#genedcoursestext) .
- General education courses may be used to satisfy requirements for both general education and the major, minor, and program emphases, where applicable. Students should carefully review the major, minor, and program emphases requirements for minimum grade restrictions, should they apply.

Code	Title	Credits
Communication (C)		12
ENGL 110	College Composition I	
ENGL 120	College Composition II	
COMM 110	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	
Upper Division Writing †		
Quantitative Reasoning (R) †		3
Science and Technology (S) †		10
Humanities and Fine Arts (A) †		6
Social and Behavioral Sciences (B) †		6
Wellness (W) †		2
Cultural Diversity (D) *†		
Global Perspectives (G) *†		
Total Credits		39

* May be satisfied by completing courses in another General Education category.

† May be satisfied with courses required in the major. Review major requirements to determine if a specific upper division writing course is required.

College Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree – An additional 12 credits Humanities and Social Sciences and proficiency at the second year level in a modern foreign language. *		12
Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree – An additional 6 credits in Humanities or Social Sciences *		6

* Humanities and Social Sciences may be fulfilled by any course having the following prefix: ADHM, ANTH, ARCH, ART, CJ, CLAS, COMM, ECON, ENGL, FREN, GEOG, GERM, HDFS, HIST, LA, LANG, MUSC, PHIL, POLS, PSYC, RELS, SOC, SPAN, THEA, WGS, or any course from the approved list of general education courses in humanities and social sciences (general education categories A and B). These credits must come from outside the department of the student's major.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS - Optical Science and Engineering OPTION

A grade of 'C' or better is required for all PHYS prefix courses.

Code	Title	Credits
Physics Major Requirements (Optical Science & Engineering Option)		
PHYS 171	Introductory Projects in Physics	1
PHYS 251 & 251L	University Physics I and University Physics I Laboratory (May satisfy general education category S)	5
PHYS 251R	University Physics I Recitation	1
PHYS 252 & 252L	University Physics II and University Physics II Laboratory (May satisfy general education category S)	5
PHYS 252R	University Physics II Recitation	1
PHYS 350	Modern Physics	3
PHYS 355	Classical Mechanics	3
PHYS 360	Modern Physics II	3
PHYS 361	Electromagnetic Theory (or PHY 370:Electromagnetic Theory from MSUM)	3
PHYS 370	Introduction to Computational Physics	3
PHYS 411 & 411L	Optics for Scientists & Engineers and Optics for Scientists and Engineers Lab	4
PHYS 413	Lasers for Scientists and Engineers	3
PHYS 415	Elements of Photonics	3
PHYS 462	Thermal and Statistical Physics	3
PHYS 485	Quantum Mechanics I	3
PHYS 486	Quantum Mechanics II	3
PHYS 489	Senior Project II	3
CSCI 160	Computer Science I	4
or ECE 173	Introduction to Computing	
EE 206	Circuit Analysis I	4
Related Required Courses		
Mathematics:		
MATH 129	Basic Linear Algebra	3
or MATH 429	Linear Algebra	
MATH 165	Calculus I (May satisfy general education category R)	4
MATH 166	Calculus II	4
MATH 265	Calculus III	4
MATH 266	Introduction to Differential Equations	3
MATH Electives	400-level (MATH 452, MATH 481, and/or MATH 488 are recommended)	6
Select one of the following (150/160 is recommended):		4
CHEM 150 & CHEM 160	Principles of Chemistry I and Principles of Chemistry Laboratory I	
CHEM 121 & 121L	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory	
Select one of the following (151/161 is recommended):		4
CHEM 151 & CHEM 161	Principles of Chemistry II and Principles of Chemistry Laboratory II	
CHEM 122 & 122L	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory	
Total Credits		90

PROGRAM NOTES

- Except for courses offered only as pass/fail grading, no course may be taken Pass/Fail.

Recommended Electives for the Optical and Engineering Option

Code	Title	Credits
ECE 311	Circuit Analysis II	4
ECE 321	Electronics for Electrical Engineers	2
ECE 417	Optical Signal Transmission	3
ECE 483	Instrumentation for Engineers	3

Minor Requirements

Physics Minor

Minor Requirements

Required Credits: 19

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
PHYS 251	University Physics I	4
PHYS 252	University Physics II	4
PHYS 252L	University Physics II Laboratory	1
PHYS 350	Modern Physics	3
Electives: Select 7 credits from the following:		7
PHYS 171	Introductory Projects in Physics	
PHYS 251L	University Physics I Laboratory	
PHYS 251R	University Physics I Recitation	
PHYS 252R	University Physics II Recitation	
PHYS 215	Research For Undergraduates	
Any 300-400 level Physics course		
ME 221 and ME 222 may be substituted for PHYS 251 and PHYS 251L		
Total Credits		19

Minor Requirements and Notes

- A minimum of 8 credits must be taken at NDSU.

Plan of Study

Freshman			
Fall	**Credits**	**Spring**	**Credits**
PHYS 171	1	PHYS 251	4
MATH 165	4	PHYS 251L	1
CHEM 150	3	PHYS 251R	1
CHEM 160	1	MATH 129	3
ENGL 110 credit automatically granted if you earn a "C" in ENGL 120	4	MATH 166	4
ENGL 120 can enroll in ENGL 120 if ACT score > 17	3	CHEM 151	3
Wellness Elective	2	CHEM 161	1
	18		17
Sophomore			
Fall	**Credits**	**Spring**	**Credits**
PHYS 252	4	CSCI 161	4

PHYS 252L	1	PHYS 350	3
PHYS 252R	1	MATH 266	3
MATH 265	4	COMM 110	3
CSCI 160	4	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3
Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3	Social/Behavioral Science Elective	3
	17		19
Junior			
Fall	**Credits**	**Spring**	**Credits**
PHYS 355	3	PHYS 370	3
PHYS 360	3	ENGL 324	3
MATH 4XX Math Elective	3	PHYS 361	3
Social/Behavioral Science Elective	3	MATH 4XX Math Elective	3
Free elective	3	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3
	15		15
Senior			
Fall	**Credits**	**Spring**	**Credits**
PHYS 462	3	PHYS 489	2
PHYS 485	3	PHYS 481	3
PHYS 411	3	PHYS 486	3
PHYS 411L	1	Physics Elective	3
Social/Behavioral Science Elective	3		
PHYS 488	1		
	14		11

Total Credits: 126