

Physics

Department Information

- **Department Location:**
South Engineering
- **Department Phone:**
701-231-8974
- **Department Web Site:**
www.ndsu.edu/physics/
- **Credential Offered:**
B.S.; B.A.
- **Plan Of Study Sample:**
bulletin.ndsu.edu/programs-study/undergraduate/physics/#planofstudytext

Major Requirements

Major: Physics - Standard

Degree Type: B.A. or B.S.

Minimum Degree Credits to Graduate: 120

University Degree Requirements

1. Satisfactory completion of all requirements of the curriculum in which one is enrolled.
2. Earn a minimum total of 120 credits in approved coursework. Some academic programs exceed this minimum.
3. Satisfactory completion of the general education requirements as specified by the university.
4. A minimum institutional GPA of 2.00 based on work taken at NDSU.
5. At least 36 credits presented for graduation must be in courses numbered 300 or higher.
6. Transfer Students: Must earn a minimum of 60 credits from a baccalaureate-degree granting or professional institution.
 - a. Of these 60, at least 36 must be NDSU resident credits as defined in #7.
 - b. Within the 36 resident credits, a minimum of 15 must be in courses numbered 300 or higher and 15 credits in the major field of study.
7. At least 36 credits must be NDSU resident credits. Resident credits include credits registered and paid for at NDSU.

For complete information, please refer to the Degree and Graduation Requirements (<http://bulletin.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2020-21/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/degree-and-graduation>) section of this Bulletin.

University General Education Requirements

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.

† 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 major requirements to determine if specific courses can also satisfy these general education categories.

- A list of university approved general education courses and administrative policies are available here (<http://bulletin.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2020-21/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/general-education/#genedcoursestext>).

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		
CSCI 160 or ECE 173	Computer Science I Introduction to Computing	4
CSCI 161	Computer Science II	4
MATH 129 or MATH 329	Basic Linear Algebra Intermediate Linear Algebra	3
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 - Select 6 credits from the following:	6
MATH 270 Introduction to Abstract Mathematics	
MATH 400 Level (MATH 488 & MATH 489 are recommended)	
Select one of the following chemistry sequences (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 sequences (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	
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: 120

University Degree Requirements

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7. At least 36 credits must be NDSU resident credits. Resident credits include credits registered and paid for at NDSU.

For complete information, please refer to the Degree and Graduation Requirements (<http://bulletin.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2020-21/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/degree-and-graduation>) section of this Bulletin.

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Wellness (W) [†]		2
Cultural Diversity (D) ^{**†}		
Global Perspectives (G) ^{**†}		
Total Credits		39

- * May be satisfied by completing courses in another General Education category.
- † 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 major requirements to determine if specific courses can also satisfy these general education categories.
- A list of university approved general education courses and administrative policies are available here (<http://bulletin.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2020-21/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/general-education/#genedcoursestext>).

College Requirements

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- * 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 (or PHY 330: Intermediate Mechanics from MSUM)	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 488	Senior Project I	1
PHYS 489	Senior Project II	2
CSCI 160 or ECE 173	Computer Science I Introduction to Computing	4
EE 206	Circuit Analysis I	4
Related Required Courses		
MATH 129 or MATH 329	Basic Linear Algebra Intermediate Linear Algebra	3
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: Select 6 credits from the following: 6

MATH 270 Introduction to Abstract Mathematics

MATH 400 Level (MATH 452, MATH 481, and/or MATH 488 are recommended)

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 II	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:		
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.