BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN PHYSICS AND A MAJOR CONCENTRATION IN GENERAL PHYSICS

Program Learning Outcomes for the BS Degree with a Major in Physics and a Major Concentration in General Physics

Upon completing the BS degree with a major in Physics and a major concentration in General Physics, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a solid foundation of knowledge in physics and deeper knowledge of subdivisions of the field related to their interests.
2. Identify, formulate, and solve challenging scientific and technical problems as encountered in physics.
3. Read basic scientific literature and communicate scientific results orally and in writing with scientists and the general public.
4. Conduct directed research.

Requirements for the BS Degree with a Major in Physics and a Major Concentration in General Physics

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements). Students pursuing the BS degree with a major in Physics and a major concentration in General Physics must complete:

- A minimum of 64 credit hours to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 124 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 60 credit hours outside of major requirements.
- A minimum of 37 credit hours taken at the 300-level or above.
- Core courses common to all major concentrations.
- The requirements for the major concentration in General Physics. When students declare the major (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/#text) in Physics, students must additionally identify and declare one of the major concentrations, either in:
  - Applied Physics (ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/physics-astronomy/applied-physics-bs/#requirementstext), or
  - Biological Physics (ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/physics-astronomy/biological-physics-bs/#requirementstext), or
  - Computational Physics (ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/physics-astronomy/computational-physics-bs/#requirementstext), or
  - General Physics (p. 1)

Because of the common core requirements, it is possible for students to change their major concentration at any time, even after initially declaring the major. To do so, please contact the Office of the Registrar (registrar@rice.edu).

Students may obtain credit for some courses by advanced placement, and the department’s undergraduate committee can modify requirements to meet the needs of students with special backgrounds.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the department’s undergraduate committee for input into Degree Works by the major’s official certifier. Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

### Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Credit Hours for the Major in Physics and a Major Concentration in General Physics</td>
<td>64</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credit Hours for the BS Degree with a Major in Physics and a Major Concentration in General Physics</td>
<td>124</td>
<td></td>
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### Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 101 &amp; PHYS 103</td>
<td>MECHANICS (WITH LAB) and MECHANICS DISCUSSION</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 111</td>
<td>HONORS MECHANICS (WITH LAB)</td>
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<td>Select 1 from the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 102 &amp; PHYS 104</td>
<td>ELECTRICITY &amp; MAGNETISM (WITH LAB) and ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM DISCUSSION</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 112</td>
<td>HONORS ELECTRICITY &amp; MAGNETISM (WITH LAB)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 201</td>
<td>WAVES, LIGHT, AND HEAT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 202</td>
<td>MODERN PHYSICS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 231</td>
<td>ELEMENTARY PHYSICS LAB</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 301</td>
<td>INTERMEDIATE MECHANICS</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 311</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO QUANTUM PHYSICS I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 491 &amp; PHYS 493</td>
<td>UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH and UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SEMINAR 1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 492 &amp; PHYS 494</td>
<td>UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH and UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SEMINAR 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 101</td>
<td>SINGLE VARIABLE CALCULUS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 102</td>
<td>SINGLE VARIABLE CALCULUS II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 211</td>
<td>ORDINARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS AND LINEAR ALGEBRA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 221</td>
<td>HONORS CALCULUS III</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 212</td>
<td>MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or MATH 222</td>
<td>HONORS CALCULUS IV</td>
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</table>

Major Concentration in General Physics

1

2

3
Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree with a Major in Physics and a Major Concentration in General Physics

PHYS 302  INTERMEDIATE ELECTRODYNAMICS  4
PHYS 312  INTRODUCTION TO QUANTUM PHYSICS II  3
PHYS 332  JUNIOR PHYSICS LAB II  2
PHYS 425  STATISTICAL & THERMAL PHYSICS  3

Select 2 from the following:  6
PHYS 355  INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL PHYSICS
PHYS 411  INTRODUCTION TO NUCLEAR & PARTICLE PHYSICS
PHYS 412  SOLID STATE PHYSICS
PHYS 416  COMPUTATIONAL PHYSICS
PHYS 480  INTRODUCTION TO PLASMA PHYSICS

Select 1 from the following:  6
MATH 381 & MATH 382  INTRODUCTION TO PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS and COMPUTATIONAL COMPLEX ANALYSIS
CAAM 335 & CAAM 336  MATRIX ANALYSIS and DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Physics and a Major Concentration in General Physics  64

University Graduation Requirements (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements) *  60

Total Credit Hours  124

Footnotes and Additional Information
* Includes coursework completed as distribution credit, FWIS, LPAP, upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), 60 hours outside of the major (if applicable), and any additional academic program requirements. The "hours outside of the major" requirement may include all of the above university requirements.

1 PHYS 491 and PHYS 493 must be taken concurrently.
2 PHYS 492 and PHYS 494 must be taken concurrently.
3 Because of common core requirements, it is possible to change major concentrations even after declaring the major. See the Undergraduate tab of the Physics and Astronomy department listing for the requirements for each major concentration for the BS degree in Physics.

Opportunities for the BS Degree with a Major in Physics and a Major Concentration in General Physics

Academic Honors
The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate’s academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see Latin Honors (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university) (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) and Distinction in Research and Creative Work (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

Research in the Department of Physics and Astronomy
The Physics and Astronomy Department encourages undergraduate participation in research, both within the department and through extramural programs. For current opportunities, please visit the Department’s website and click on the Undergraduate Study link, at: http://www.physics.rice.edu/.

For additional information, please see the Physics and Astronomy website: http://physics.rice.edu/

Policies for the BS Degree with a Major in Physics and a Major Concentration in General Physics

Transfer Credit
For Rice University’s policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university’s official list of transfer credit advisors on their website: http://oaa.rice.edu. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program’s transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines
Students pursuing the major in Physics should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines: