

# PHYSICS: ASTROPHYSICS, BA

Physics and astronomy are fundamental sciences aimed at discovering the basic principles that govern our universe. Physicists study the interplay between space, time, matter, and energy. Complex behavior in nature is explained in terms of elementary relations between constituent elements and the forces that bind them, over distances ranging from subatomic to cosmic scale. Astronomy encompasses the entire physical universe beyond the earth: the solar system, stars, galaxies, galaxy clusters and superclusters, quasars, and the large-scale structure of the universe. The basic tools in physics and astronomy are mathematics and experimental investigation and observation of the world around us.

At Penn, the curriculum for undergraduate Physics majors, which includes extensive laboratory experience, is based on faculty strengths in Condensed Matter Physics, Elementary Particle Physics, and Astrophysics. Undergraduate teaching is linked to faculty research efforts in these areas, and participation by undergraduates in research is strongly encouraged.

This concentration is particularly appropriate for students planning to attend graduate school in Astrophysics. In addition to core Physics courses, students choose from a selection of courses in Astronomy and Astrophysics.

The minimum total course units (<https://www.college.upenn.edu/credits-needed-major/>) for graduation in this major is 36. Double majors may entail more course units.

**For more information:** <http://www.physics.upenn.edu/>

For information about the General Education requirements, please visit the College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum (<https://www.college.upenn.edu/curriculum/>) page.

Code	Title	Course Units
<b>College General Education Requirements and Free Electives</b>		
Foundational Approaches + Sectors <sup>1</sup> + Free Electives		16.5
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
<i>Core Requirements</i>		
MATH 1400	Calculus, Part I	1
MATH 1410	Calculus, Part II	1
MATH 2400	Calculus, Part III	1
MATH 2410	Calculus, Part IV	1
PHYS 1230	Principles of Physics III: Thermal Physics and Waves	1
PHYS 1250	Principles of Physics IV: Modern Physics	1.5
PHYS 3351	Analytical Mechanics	1
PHYS 3361	Electromagnetism I: Electricity and Potential Theory	1
PHYS 3362	Electromagnetism II: Magnetism, Maxwell's Equations, and Electromagnetic Waves	1
PHYS 4411	Introduction to Quantum Mechanics I	1
PHYS 0150	Principles of Physics I: Mechanics and Wave Motion	1.5
or PHYS 0170	Honors Physics I: Mechanics and Wave Motion	
PHYS 0151	Principles of Physics II: Electromagnetism and Radiation	1.5

or PHYS 0171 Honors Physics II: Electromagnetism and Radiation		
<i>Concentration Requirements</i>		
ASTR 1211	Introduction to Astrophysics I	1
ASTR 1212	Introduction to Astrophysics II	1
PHYS 4401	Thermodynamics and the Introduction to Statistical Mechanics and Kinetic Theory	1
Select 3 additional course units of Concentration		3
<b>Total Course Units</b>		<b>36</b>

<sup>1</sup> You may count no more than one course toward both a Major and a Sector requirement. For Exceptions, check the Policy Statement (<http://www.college.upenn.edu/sectors-policy/>).

## Honors

Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.3 in major-related courses.

Code	Title	Course Units
PHYS 4498	Senior Honor Thesis (Semester 1)	1
PHYS 4498	Senior Honor Thesis (Semester 2)	1
Thesis Accepted		

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2023 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.