BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PHYSICS

Why study physics and astronomy?
Because understanding the physical universe starts here.

Undergraduate Admission
Admission to KU
All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Unless they are college transfer students with at least 24 hours of credit, prospective students must send ACT or SAT scores to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (http://admissions.ku.edu) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (http://www.iss.ku.edu) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of Admissions (http://credittransfer.ku.edu) website.

Admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Admission to the College is a different process from admission to a major field. Some CLAS departments have admission requirements. See individual department/program sections for departmental admission requirements.

Requirements for the B.A. Major in Physics
All students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts in Physics must complete the KU Core requirements and the College BA specific requirements, listed in the KU Core and College sections of the catalog.

Bachelor of Arts in Physics Major Course Requirements
Foundational Physics and Mathematics (17.5)
Majors must complete courses as specified in each of the following areas. Majors are advised to take honors courses when eligible. All honors equivalents are also acceptable to fulfill PHSX major requirements.

Seminar in Physics, Astronomy, & Engineering Physics. Satisfied by:
PHSX 150 Seminar in Physics, Astronomy and Engineering Physics 0.5

General Physics I. Satisfied by one of the following:
PHSX 211 General Physics I
PHSX 216 & PHSX 216 and General Physics I Laboratory
PHSX 213 General Physics I Honors

General Physics II. Satisfied by one of the following:
PHSX 212 General Physics II
PHSX 236 & PHSX 236 and General Physics II Laboratory
PHSX 214 General Physics II Honors

Calculus I. Satisfied by:
MATH 125 Calculus I 4
or MATH 145 Calculus I, Honors

Calculus II. Satisfied by:
MATH 126 Calculus II 4
or MATH 146 Calculus II, Honors

Advanced Math Requirement (6)
MATH 127 Calculus III 4
or MATH 147 Calculus III, Honors

Elementary Linear Algebra. Satisfied by:
MATH 290 Elementary Linear Algebra 2
or MATH 291 Elementary Linear Algebra, Honors

Differential Equations. Satisfied by one of the following:
MATH 220 Applied Differential Equations
MATH 320 Elementary Differential Equations (recommended)

Advance Physics Major Requirements (17)
Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas:

General Physics III. Satisfied by:
PHSX 313 General Physics III 3

Intermediate Physics Lab. Satisfied by:
PHSX 316 Intermediate Physics Laboratory I 1

Introductory Quantum Mechanics. Satisfied by:
PHSX 511 Introductory Quantum Mechanics 3

Mechanics I. Satisfied by:
PHSX 521 Mechanics I 3

Electricity and Magnetism. Satisfied by:
PHSX 531 Electricity and Magnetism 3

Electronic Circuit Measurement and Design. Satisfied by:
PHSX 536 Electronic Circuit Measurement and Design 4
or PHSX 516 Physical Measurements

Physics Required Elective (3)
Satisfied by any lecture or laboratory course numbered 500 or higher. 3

Physics Major Hours & Major GPA
While completing all required courses (above), majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours
Satisfied by 30 hours of major courses.

Major Hours in Residence
Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Hours
Satisfied by a minimum of 12 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Graduation GPA
Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F’s and repeated courses. See the Semester/ Cumulative GPA Calculator (http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa).

Concentration in Computational Physics
Physics Prerequisite or Co-requisite Knowledge (27)
Majors must complete courses as specified in each of the following areas. Majors are advised to take honors courses when eligible. These hours do not contribute to the minimum number of hours required for the major.

Programming I. Satisfied by:
- ECE 168 Programming I

Programming II. Satisfied by:
- ECE 268 Programming II

Elementary Linear Algebra. Satisfied by:
- MATH 290 Elementary Linear Algebra

Elementary or Applied Differential Equations. Satisfied by:
- MATH 220 Applied Differential Equations
- or MATH 320 Elementary Differential Equations

Foundations of Chemistry I. Satisfied by:
- CHEM 130 General Chemistry I
- or CHEM 150 Chemistry for Engineers
- or CHEM 170 Chemistry for the Chemical Sciences I
- or CHEM 190 Foundations of Chemistry I, Honors

Principles of Biology. Satisfied by:
- BIOL 100 Principles of Biology

Introduction to Symbolic Logic. Satisfied by:
- PHIL 310 Introduction to Symbolic Logic

Economics. Satisfied by:
- ECON 142 Principles of Microeconomics
- or ECON 144 Principles of Macroeconomics

### Physics Core Knowledge and Skills (27.5)

Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas:
- Seminar in Physics, Astronomy, and Engineering Physics. Satisfied by:
  - PHSX 150 Seminar in Physics, Astronomy and Engineering Physics 0.5
- General Physics I. Satisfied by one of the following:
  - PHSX 211 General Physics I
  - & PHSX 216 and General Physics I Laboratory
  - PHSX 213 General Physics I Honors
- General Physics II. Satisfied by one of the following:
  - PHSX 212 General Physics II
  - & PHSX 236 and General Physics II Laboratory
  - PHSX 214 General Physics II Honors

General Physics III and Intermediate Physics Laboratory. Satisfied by:
- PHSX 313 General Physics III
- & PHSX 316 and Intermediate Physics Laboratory 4

Mechanics I. Satisfied by:
- PHSX 521 Mechanics I 3

Electricity and Magnetism. Satisfied by:
- PHSX 531 Electricity and Magnetism 3

Electronic Circuit Measurement and Design. Satisfied by:
- PHSX 536 Electronic Circuit Measurement and Design 4
- or PHSX 516 Physical Measurements 4

Special Problems. Satisfied by:
- PHSX 500 Special Problems 5

Numerical and Computational Methods in Physics. Satisfied by:
- PHSX 615 Numerical and Computational Methods in Physics 3

Below is a sample 4-year plan for students pursuing the BA in Physics. To view the list of courses approved to fulfill KU Core Goals, please visit the KU Core website (http://kucore.ku.edu/courses).

This degree plan assumes students will have the equivalent of MATH 101 or MATH 104 prior to freshman year, fall semester.

### Freshman

#### Fall
- ENGL 101 (Goal 2.1 (2 crs req), BA Writing I) 3
- 1st Semester Language (BA Second Language) 5
- First Year Seminar (Goal 1.1 Critical Thinking) 3
- MATH 125 (Major Pre-requisite) 4
- PHSX 150 (Major Requirement) 0.5

#### Hours
- Spring 17
- Total Hours 15.5

### Sophomore

#### Fall
- 3rd Semester Language (BA Second Language) 3
- Goal 2.2 Communication 3
- Goal 3 Social Science 3
- MATH 212 or 236 (Major Requirement), or
- PHSX 214 4

#### Hours
- Spring 15-17
- Total Hours 16

### Junior

#### Fall
- Goal 4.1 US Diversity 3
- PHSX 511 (Major Requirement) 3
- MATH 127 (Major Pre-requisite) 4
- Elective or possible minor course 300+ (Total Hours) 3

#### Hours
- Spring 15
- Total Hours 16

### Senior

#### Fall
- PHSX 531 (Major Requirement) 3

### Total Hours
- 0.5 (BA Writing I)
- 2 (BA Writing II)
- 2 (Goal 3 Humanities)
- 2 (Goal 5 Social Responsibility & Ethics)
- 3 (Goal 6 Integration & Creativity)

### Notes
- Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas.
- Majors are advised to take honors courses when eligible.
- These hours do not contribute to the minimum number of hours required for the major.
- Majors must complete courses as specified in each of the following areas.
- Majors are advised to take honors courses when eligible.
- These hours do not contribute to the minimum number of hours required for the major.
Bachelor of Arts in Physics

PHSX 516 or 536 (Major Requirement)

4 PHSX Lecture or Lab Elective 500+ (Major Requirement)

3

Elective or possible minor course 300+ (Total Hours)

3 PHSX 536 or 516 (or elective Major Requirement)

4

Elective or possible minor course 300+ (Total Hours)

3 Elective or possible minor course 300+ (Total Hours)

3

Elective or possible minor course 300+ (Total Hours)

Elective or possible minor course 300+ (Total Hours)

1

Total Hours: 121.5-123.5

1 The BA requires completion of two courses of collegiate-level writing instruction. Students who test out of Composition will still need to complete ENGL 102 (or equivalent) and one additional Goal 2.1 course.

2 Prerequisite for MATH 125: MATH 104; or MATH 103; or three years of college preparatory mathematics including trigonometry and a score of 28 or higher on ACT mathematics; or a qualifying score on the mathematics placement test.

3 MATH 320 or MATH 220 is a pre-requisite for PHSX 313.

4 Either PHSX 536 or PHSX 516 is required for the major, not both. PHSX 516 is typically taught in the fall, and PHSX 536 is often taught in the spring.

5 A 500+ level Physics laboratory or lecture elective is required for the major.

6 It is recommended that students fulfill Goal 6 with a course from within their major. PHSX 503: Undergraduate Research is not required by the major, but is an encouraged course to fulfill Goal 6 and to fulfill research experience.

Please note:

All students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are required to complete 120 total hours of which 45 hours must be at the Jr/Sr (300+) level.

The same course cannot be used to fulfill more than one KU Core Goal. However, overlap of a KU Core course with a major or degree-specific requirement is allowed. Overlapping is recommended to allow more opportunities to explore other majors and/or minors.

Departmental Honors in Physics and Astronomy

Qualified students earning either a B.A. or a B.S. degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with a major in astronomy or physics may graduate with Honors in Physics & Astronomy by fulfilling the following requirements: (1) By the end of the candidate’s final semester, achieve a minimum GPA of 3.25 overall and 3.5 in the major, in all courses taken in residence and elsewhere; and (2) Complete at least 24 semester hours of astronomy and physics courses numbered 500 or above, including undergraduate research represented by two hours of credit in ASTR 597, ASTR 503, PHSX 501 or PHSX 503. A grade of B or better must be earned in one of the following: ASTR 597, ASTR 503, PHSX 501 or PHSX 503. In addition, all of our department’s honors requirements include student research, for which results shall be presented in at least one of the following forms: (1) a written research summary, read by 3 faculty members in physics and astronomy or related fields or authorship on a peer-reviewed manuscript; (2) a research-based oral presentation at an appropriate venue (e.g., Undergraduate Research symposium, a presentation in an advanced department seminar class, a discipline specific meeting); or (3) presentation of a poster at an appropriate venue.

A student who plans to graduate with honors in physics and astronomy must file a Declaration of Intent Form with the Departmental Honors Coordinator, preferably during his/her junior year but in any case no later than enrollment for the final undergraduate semester.