

Minor in Physics

Why study physics and astronomy?

Our goal is to understand the physical universe. The questions addressed by our department's research and education missions range from the applied, such as an improved understanding of the materials that can be used for solar cell energy production, to foundational questions about the nature of mass and space, how the universe was formed and subsequently evolved, and how astrophysical phenomena affected the Earth and its evolution. We study the properties of systems ranging in size from smaller than an atom to larger than a galaxy on timescales ranging from billionths of a second to the age of the universe. Our courses and laboratory/research experiences help students hone their problem solving and analytical skills and thereby become broadly trained critical thinkers. While about half of our majors move on to graduate studies in STEM, many find employment in the private sector in diverse careers ranging from financial analysts to physicians. Graduates of all our degree programs can be found in key positions regionally, nationally, and internationally. In this way, our department is at the forefront of telling the academic story of the University of Kansas to people around the state and around the world.

Requirements for the Minor in Physics

Physics Minor Course Requirements

Student selecting this minor must complete courses as specified in each of the following areas:

Code	Title	Hours
General Physics I. Satisfied by one of the following:		4-5
PHSX 211 & PHSX 216	General Physics I and General Physics I Laboratory	
PHSX 213	General Physics I Honors	
General Physics II. Satisfied by one of the following:		4
PHSX 212 & PHSX 236	General Physics II and General Physics II Laboratory	
PHSX 214	General Physics II Honors	
General Physics III and Intermediate Physics Laboratory. Satisfied by:		
PHSX 313 & PHSX 316	General Physics III and Intermediate Physics Laboratory I	4
Mechanics I. Satisfied by:		
PHSX 521 or EPHX 521	Mechanics I Mechanics I	3
Electricity and Magnetism. Satisfied by:		
PHSX 531 or EPHX 531	Electricity and Magnetism Electricity and Magnetism	3
Physics Required Elective. Satisfied by any 3 credit hour PHSX course numbered 500 or above.		3
Total Hours		21-22

Minor Hours & Minor GPA

While completing all required courses (above), minors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Minor Hours

Satisfied by 21 hours of major courses.

Minor Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 9 junior/senior (300+) hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Minor Junior/Senior (300+) Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 13 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the minor.

Minor Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in the minor. GPA calculations include all courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).