

Physics Major - General Track (BA) Checklist

Students entering Fall, 2023 and later

Student name: _____ SPIRE #: _____ Advisor name & date: _____

Courses needed to meet departmental graduation requirements (which must be taken for a letter grade, not Pass/Fail) are shown in **boldface**.

This checklist shows departmental requirements - it does *not* show all University, College, and Gen-Ed requirements.

Current Gen-Ed requirements are listed here: https://www.umass.edu/gened/sites/default/files/cpg_admitted_students_f2018_rev.pdf

There is a foreign-language requirement for the BA degree. More info:

<https://www.umass.edu/natural-sciences/academics/degree-requirements>

FRESHMAN COURSES					
	Course (sems. offered) pre- and co-requisites	Course title or description	Cr	Sem. taken + grade, or semester planned	Career / professional development
F1	PHYS 181 (F) co: M131	Physics I (Mechanics)	4		• Try Handshake • Write resume • Get to know at least one faculty member • Use “career development checklist”
	PHYS 185 (F)	Freshman Colloquium (recommended)	1		
	MATH 131 (F,S)	Calculus I (or higher if have M131 credit)	4		
	CICS 110 (F,S)	Found. Programming (recommended)	4		
	Other	• First-year freshman seminar • GenEd DU or DG • ENGWRT112 if available in Fall	1 4 3		
Physics 181 can usually be waived if Physics 151 has been passed at UMass or transferred from another college or university. AP credit for Physics 151 will <i>not</i> count in place of Physics 181.					
S1	PHYS 182 (S) pre: P181/P151 co: M132	Physics II (E&M)	4		• Apply for summer job/internship: start in Dec., due in Feb. • Consider on-campus research, teaching, or outreach activities. • Meet with CNS career center.
	MATH 132 (F,S) pre: M131	Calculus II (or higher if have M132 credit)	4		
	PHYS 192M (S)	Intro/Measurement w/Arduino (recommended)	1		
	Other (optional)	• Practicum (research w/ faculty) • CICS110 if not already taken • PHYS 281 (S1 or F2 – talk to advisor) • GenEd DU or DG if not already taken • ENGWRT112 if not already taken	1-3 4 3 4 3		
Physics 182 can usually be waived if Physics 152 has been passed at UMass or transferred from another college or university. AP credit for Physics 152 will <i>not</i> count in place of Physics 182.					
SOPHOMORE COURSES					
P271-P277 offered starting AY24-25, replacing earlier P282-P289					
F2	PHYS 271 (F) pre: P181/P151 and M132 co: M233	Mathematical Methods of Physics I	3		• Consider on-campus research, teaching, or outreach activities. • Meet with CNS career center.
	PHYS 272 (F) pre: P181/P151 and M132	Physics III: Thermo, Optics, Relativity	3		
	PHYS 273 (F) co: P272	Sophomore Physics Lab I	2		
	MATH 233 (F,S) pre: M132	Calculus III, multivariable	3		
	Other (optional)	• MATH 235 (F,S) Linear Algebra • TA, NATSCI 293A, research practicum, or indep. study	3		
S2	PHYS 275 (S) pre: P271 and M233	Mathematical Methods of Physics II Optional but should be taken if plan to take P422 or P424	3		• Apply for summer job/internship: start in Dec., due in Feb.
	PHYS 276 (S) pre: P181/P151 and P271	Physics IV: Waves and Quantum Mech	3		
	PHYS 277 (S) co: P276	Sophomore Physics Lab II	2		
	PHYS 281 (F,S) pre: P181/P151 and M132 co: P182/P152	Computational Physics A prior programming course such as CICS110 is recommended.	3		
	Other (optional)	• MATH 331 (F,S) Ordinary Differential Eq.	3		

Advanced course requirement: Must take **one** course from following. Note **P275** is a prerequisite for **P422** and for **P424**.

- Most 500-level courses are only offered in one semester (Fall or Spring), and some are not offered every year. Consult your advisor when planning your advance course(s).**

Concentration in an area of focus: Minimum of 15 credits.
This list of courses (and any subsequent changes) must be approved by your physics advisor.
 We recommend seeking advice on course selection from advisors in other departments.

Focus or rationale for your 15-credit concentration:

Approval by Physics Advisor and Date: