

The Department of Physics

Physics Major (BA)

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About

Physics is the human endeavor to understand the nature of matter, energy, and their governing interactions from the scale of subatomic particles to that of the cosmos. Through the interplay of theoretical effort and experimentation, physics strives to discover the mathematical laws of nature. As such, it both forms a foundation for a liberal arts education and provides a framework to address key challenges in our ever-changing technical world.

The Department of Physics at Villanova University is a nurturing, supportive, and inclusive academic community that strives to reflect the values of the University. We undertake our mission to educate undergraduate students in a broad range of experimental, theoretical, and computational methods through classroom and laboratory experiences. Our students address fundamental questions of nature through meaningful participation in faculty-led research that connects them with physicists around the world. The critical thinking and problem-solving skills learned by our students enable them to engage the diverse world beyond Villanova, whether they continue in the field of physics or choose to apply their educational experience to the challenges of another field.

Required Major Courses (B.A.) (67 credits)

The BA program provides a solid foundation in Physics along with problem solving and critical thinking skills that are applicable to careers in Physics and beyond, including medicine, law, business, journalism, and education. The BA provides a more flexible curriculum than the BS and is a good match for students with interdisciplinary interests.

Program Notes:

- 3-credit PHY elective OR technical elective. Approval of the Physics chairperson required.

Course	Title	Credits
PHY 2410	University Phy:Mechanics	3
PHY 2411	Lab: Mechanics	1
PHY 2412	Univ Physics:Elec & Mag	3
PHY 2413	Lab:Elec & Magnetism	1
PHY 2601	Computational Phy Lab I	1
PHY 2603	Computational Phy Lab II	1
MAT 1500	Calculus I	4
MAT 1505	Calculus II	4
PHY 2414	Univ Physics: Thermo	3
PHY 2415	Lab: Thermodynamics	1
PHY 2416	Modern Physics	3
PHY 2417	Lab:Modern Physics	1
PHY 3310	Electronics	3
PHY 3311	Electronics Lab	1
PHY 4200	Mathematical Physics I	3
MAT 2500	Calculus III	4
MAT 2705	Diff Equation with Linear Alg	4
CHM 1103	General Chemistry Lab I	1
CHM 1151	General Chemistry I	4
CHM 1152	General Chemistry II	4
PHY 4100	Mechanics I	3
PHY 4301	Experimental Methods I	2
PHY 4303	Experimental Methods II	2
PHY 4000	Elec & Magnetism I	3
PHY 4001	Elec & Magnetism I Lab	1
PHY 5100	Quantum Mechanics	3
	PHY Elective for B.A.	3

Core Curriculum Requirements (33 credits)

Physics BA Majors meet the following core requirements in the major and therefore are omitted from the summary below:

- Core Math (3 cr)
- Natural Science (8 cr)

Course	Title	Credits
ACS 1000	Ancients	3
ACS 1001	Moderns	3
THL 1000	Faith, Reason, and Culture	3
PHI 1000	Knowledge, Reality, Self	3
ETH 2050	The Good Life:Eth & Cont Prob	3
	Literature and Writing Seminar (1 course)	3
	History (1 course)	3
	Social Sciences (2 courses)	6
	Fine Arts (1 course)	3
	Upper-Level Theology (1 course)	3
	Language Requirement (Proficiency)	
	Diversity Requirement (2 courses)	

Free Elective Requirement (22 credits)

Students with a Physics BA primary major have twenty-two (22) required free elective credits.

Degree Credit Summary

- **Major Credits:** 67 credits
- **Core Credits:** 33 credits
- **Free Electives Credits:** 22 credits
- **Total Required Credits:** 122 Credits

Note: The above credit totals are based on the minimum number of required credits in each degree area. The minimum number of required credits in each area listed above must be met. Credits taken beyond the required minimum for one area may not be applied to another area.

SECONDARY MAJOR

Students who declare Physics BA as a **secondary major** must complete the Required Major Courses to achieve this major. Students are able to count any eligible course taken in their primary major, the core curriculum, minors, concentrations, or free electives toward these requirements.