MAJOR IN PHYSICS

Why is our world the way it is? How can we understand and explain what we observe around us, from the smallest sub-atomic particles to the largest galaxies? How can we apply this understanding to manipulate our world? Studying physics gives insight into the fundamental laws of nature.

But an education in physics gives so much more. The rigorous training our students receive in analyzing and understanding complex problems is valuable in many future careers. While many of our graduates have established careers in universities and in the high tech sector as research and development scientists, others have used their physics degrees as a springboard to careers in finance, administration, medicine, management or education. The range of career opportunities is perhaps wider than for any other students with a science education.

Physicists have revolutionized the way we live our lives, with groundbreaking discoveries and new technologies, transferable to other fields such as biology or finance. Our professors and graduates are an important part of this chain. Many of our professors have also been recognized for their teaching and are seen as world-class researchers in their fields of expertise.

The research conducted by the professors in the Department of Physics is concentrated in several sub-specialties, including the physics of biological and complex systems, condensed matter physics, photonics and the physics of geomatertials. Depending upon your choice of program, you have the opportunity to take courses and participate in research projects in these specialized areas.

In addition to the Honours BSc in Physics, we offer three other Honours BSc programs. The first is in physics-mathematics, which provides enriched mathematics training within a physics program. The second is the option in photonics, which gives students a solid training in physics and a more applied and industry-related training in photonics. The third is the option in biological physics, which teaches students to apply a rigorous education in physics to various areas of life sciences. We also offer a Major in Physics that can form the core of an Honours BSc degree.

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Program Requirements

The table below includes only the discipline-specific courses. Please refer to the Academic Regulations (http://web5.uottawa.ca/admingov/regulations.html) for information on the Honours bachelor’s with double major and the Honours bachelor’s with major and minor.

Co-operative education is available when taken as part of an honours degree.

The extended French stream is available when taken as part of an honours degree.

MAT 1320 Calculus I 3 Units
3 course units from:
MAT 1322 Calculus II 3 Units
MAT 1325 Calculus II and an Introduction to Analysis
MAT 1341 Introduction to Linear Algebra 3 Units
PHY 1121 Fundamentals of Physics I 3 Units
PHY 1122 Fundamentals of Physics II 3 Units
3 course units from:
MAT 2122 Multivariable Calculus 3 Units
MAT 2322 Calculus III for Engineers 3 Units
MAT 2324 Ordinary Differential Equations and the Laplace Transform
MAT 2384 Ordinary Differential Equations and Numerical Methods
PHY 2104 Introduction to Circuit Theory and Electronics 3 Units
PHY 2311 Waves and Optics 3 Units
PHY 2323 Electricity and Magnetism 3 Units
PHY 2333 Mechanics 3 Units
PHY 2361 Modern Physics 3 Units
PHY 3350 Thermodynamics 3 Units
PHY 3902 Physics and Applied Physics Laboratory I 3 Units
6 optional course units from: 2 6 Units
PHY 3320 Electromagnetic Theory
PHY 3341 Theoretical Physics 3
PHY 3355 Statistical Thermodynamics
PHY 3370 Introductory Quantum Mechanics 3
6 optional course units in physics (PHY) at the 3000 or 4000 level, excluding PHY 3902, PHY 3903, PHY 3904, PHY 4006, PHY 4327, PHY 4903, PHY 4906 6 Units
Total: 54 Units

Note(s)
1. MAT 1322 is recommended.
2. The complete list of courses is recommended for students intending to pursue graduate studies in physics.
3. PHY 3341 is a corequisite for PHY 3370.

This message is intended for students registered in the Faculty of Science. If the components of your program of study require common compulsory courses, you will have to replace the units as follows:

1. 1000-level courses must be replaced with elective course units;
2. 2000-level courses and above must be replaced with optional course units from either discipline at the same level or above.

Please note that all programs in the Faculty of Science require a minimum of 12 elective course units from the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Social Sciences or the Telfer School of Management. Once you have decided on the replacement courses, please inform the Office of Undergraduate Programs of the
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Faculty of Science by email at infosci@uOttawa.ca so that we may amend your Academic Advisement accordingly.