

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Undergraduate Programs

Physics is the branch of knowledge that attempts to explain all of the phenomena we observe or infer on earth and in the universe. Its study has made possible a modern understanding of the origin of the universe as well as the behavior of biological materials and chemical processes. Scientists trained in this field can engage in such diverse areas as solid state devices, particle physics, energy and the environment, and space travel.

As an undergraduate, you will take a group of core courses that will give you a general background in the subject. You will study force and motion, heat, optics, electricity, magnetism, atomic and nuclear physics, quantum mechanics, and the physical properties of materials, learning both the theoretical and the experimental aspects.

Physicists are employed by almost all industries, particularly by the technical industries and by government laboratories. Although you can work in the field with a bachelor's degree, graduate work will give you a strengthened background that will increase your opportunities.

Requirements for the B.A. or B.S. Degree in Physics. It is important that students planning to major in physics contact the Department of Physics prior to the start of their work in order that a coherent program can be planned with their assigned adviser. Students planning to transfer to PSU from community colleges or other universities are strongly advised to contact the Department of Physics well ahead of their proposed date of transfer so that a smooth transition, which avoids course duplication and untimely delays, can be accomplished. There are two options available: standard option and environmental physics option. In addition to meeting the general University degree requirements, the student must meet the following minimal departmental course requirements:

	Credits
Ph 201, 202, 203 General Physics <i>or</i> Ph 211, 212, 213 <i>or</i> Ph 221, 222, 223, General Physics (with Calculus)	9-12
Ph 204, 205, 206 Lab for Ph 201, 202, 203, <i>or</i> Ph 214, 215, 216 Lab for Ph 211, 212, 213 (<i>or</i> Ph 221, 222, 223)	3
Ph 311, 312 Introduction to Modern Physics	8
Ph 314, 315 Experimental Physics I	8
Ph 321 Current Electricity	4
Ph 322 Computational Physics	4
Ph 424 Classical Mechanics I	3
Upper division electives	8
Total in physics (minimum)	47-50
Mth 251, 252, 253, 254 Calculus	16
Mth 256 Applied Differential Equations	4
Mth 343 Linear Algebra	4
One year of general chemistry: Ch 221, 222, 223, 227, 228, 229	15
Total	39

Select one of the two options (standard or environmental option):

Standard option:

Ph 316 Methods of Experimental Physics I	4
Ph 425 Classical Mechanics II <i>or</i> Ph 432 Electricity and Magnetism II	3-4
Total in physics (minimum)	7-8
Two courses in a related area of science or technology (biology, geology, additional chemistry, computer science, electrical circuitry)	6-8
Total	13-16

Environmental physics option:

Choose 30 credits from the following list: Ph 451, 471, 490, 492; Bi 251, 252, 253, 357, 475, 476; G 443, 444, 484, Ch 426, 427; CE 371.

Courses taken under the undifferentiated grading option (pass/no pass) are not acceptable toward fulfilling department major requirements except for those major courses offered on a pass/no pass basis only.

Computer Engineering/Physics Dual Majors

How CMPE majors can look at the physics program:

Common to both options:

Physics requirements:

Ph 211, 212, 213 General Physics (with Calculus)
Ph 214, 215, 216 Lab for Ph 211, 212, 213
Ph 311, 312 Introduction to Modern Physics
Ph 314, 315 Methods of Experimental Physics
Ph 321 Current Electricity
Ph 322 Computational Physics
Ph 424 Classical Mechanics I
Ph 464 Applied Optics (elective)
Ph 431 Electricity and Magnetism (elective)
Mth 251, 252, 253, 254 Calculus
Mth 256 Applied Differential Equations
Mth 343 Linear Algebra
One year of general chemistry: Ch 221, 222, 223, 227, 228, 229

CMPE requirements

Ph211, 212, 213 or 221, 222, 223 General Physics
Ph214, 215, 216 Lab
CMPE: Ph317, 318
CMPE: ECE201, 202, 203, 301, 302
CMPE: ECE321
CMPE: EAS101, 102, ECE371
CMPE: Ph411 (?)
CMPE: Ph464
CMPE: Ph431 or ECE331
CMPE: Mth251, 252, 253, 460
CMPE: Mth256
CMPE: Mth343
Substitute another year of science or technology (CMPE electives)

Standard option:

Physics requirements:

Ph 316 Methods of Experimental Physics I
Ph 425 Classical Mechanics II or
 Ph 432 Electricity and Magnetism
One year of approved courses in a related area of science or
technology (biology, geology, additional chemistry,
computer science, electrical engineering)

CMPE requirements

CMPE: ECE485 (?)

CMPE: Ph432 or ECE332

Substitute another year of science or technology (CMPE electives)

The question marks in the above list indicate a less than ideal fit between the physics and CMPE programs, but in some approximation these courses are acceptable. In fact, these courses are highly desirable for both the CMPE and the Physics major. From this analysis, the following can be deduced. Besides completing the BS in CMPE, CMPE majors need to take four additional courses in physics to qualify for a BS degree in physics (based on the Portland State University Bulletin '02/'03). Since one of these courses will help in completing your CMPE degree, the net impact is just **three** extra courses before you can graduate with **two** bachelor's degrees.

These include:

Ph 464: Applied Optics
Ph 411: Quantum Mechanics
Ph 431 Electricity and Magnetism or ECE331
Ph 432 Electricity and Magnetism or ECE332

Administrative detail: You can simply add physics as your second major in the online registration procedures. The additional work is minimal, if done over two years. This should increase your potential.

These courses are of great importance in high technology and will add considerable value to your electrical engineering degree. The minimum acceptable grade, in both courses, is C. If one or more grades of C- are obtained, you will need to take one more course, one or more credits, 300-level or above, with grade C- or better.

If for some reason (class time conflicts and/or other reasons) you cannot take one of these courses, you can substitute any two courses in physics for the course that you missed. Thus, in this case, you will have to take five additional courses. Any course of two or more credits will do (300-level and above).

Undergraduate advisor:

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