# Handbook for Students

Edited by Jeff Wragg

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1 Introduction

Greetings and Welcome to the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the College of Charleston, one of the most vigorous undergraduate programs in the nation. We offer degrees in physics, astronomy, and astrophysics, as well as concentrations and minors in energy production, biomedical physics, computational neuroscience, and meteorology.

A degree in physics opens up a world of career options in areas such as engineering, space exploration, computers, energy, medicine, design and development, military, communications, economics, law, teaching, management and administration, to name a few. Our goal, within the liberal arts culture, is to offer the highest quality undergraduate physics/astronomy-affiliated education to our students. We offer a vigorous undergraduate curriculum across many disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas. Students acquire excellent mathematical, computational, and analytical skills during the coursework so that they become professionally competent to solve complex problems in virtually any field. We are strongly driven by the core values of excellence, academic freedom, integrity, collaboration, diversity, mutual respect, fairness, justice, and service.

Our award winning department has been growing steadily in the number of its students and faculty with teaching and research interests spanning a broad range of topics from nanostructures to the intricacies of the universe. Students have opportunities to undertake cutting-edge research (paid/unpaid, experimental/theoretical/computational) with our committed and diverse internationally-recognized faculty members. In addition, internship opportunities are also available in industrial settings. We are happy to speak with prospective students. Look over our programs and contact the faculty member that is aligned with your interests.

We offer a solid BS degree programs in physics and astrophysics for the most rigorous technical preparation, for example to enter PhD programs. We have BA programs in physics and astronomy that allow you the flexibility to pursue goals such as medicine, education and law. In addition to the core majors we offer formal concentrations in energy production and meteorology and minors in biomedical physics, computational neuroscience and meteorology. You can also participate in the Teacher Education Program.

What can you do with a degree from us? There are two simple cases, you can either get a job or keep going to school. Our graduates are roughly evenly divided between the two. It is our aim to prepare you academically and to help you with the details of pursuing your goal, whether it is entering the job market, pursuing a graduate degree in physics, astronomy, or a related field, or getting into medical school or other professional schools.

This handbook is a line of communication intended to guide, advise, and inform you about things here. It is NOT a substitute for the official College of Charleston Catalog.

1.1 Location and Access

The Department is largely located on the second floor of the JC Long Building, at the corner of St. Philip and Liberty Streets. The Department office, room 216, is open for business from 8:30–5:00 M-F. The office contains mailboxes for the faculty.
1.2 Jobs in the Department

The Department has job opportunities for students as teaching or research assistants or other help. Faculty often have funds for students to participate in ongoing research programs, and there are positions as assistants in introductory physics and astronomy labs. If you are interested in a position please contact the Physics Lab Manager, Dr. Mani Pokharel (pokharelm@cofc.edu) or the Astronomy Lab Manager, Chris True (truec@cofc.edu). You can make your best case for such a position. Experience in the class you want to help with is usually, but not always, necessary. Of course good grades and faculty recommendations always help. Check with individual faculty members for research position openings.

1.3 Awards, Honors, and Scholarships

Students in the Department are generally eligible for one or more awards and honors.

• **Outstanding Graduate.** All aspects of a graduating student's role as a major in the department are considered by the faculty when selecting the recipient of this annual award. Consideration will be given to students having a GPA of at least 3.4 in any degree track within the department. The award is decided each May. Eligible students are those who have graduated since the previous May graduation or will graduate in the current May graduation.

• **Departmental Honors.** To be eligible, students must have earned a GPA in the major of at least 3.5 and completed a minimum of 12 semester hours of exceptionally fine work in any combination of seminar, independent study, tutorial, or bachelor's essay.

• **Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award.** Nominated students must give a formal 10-15 minute presentation to the faculty at the end of the academic year. Eligible students are those who have completed or are enrolled in Phys 420/499.

• **Outstanding Service Award.** Each academic year the department may select a student to receive this award in recognition of outstanding service that year to the department, college and/or community.

• **Faculty Honors List.** Each semester the Office of the President publishes the faculty honors list. To be named to the list a student must have completed at least 14 hours and earned a GPA of 3.60 (distinguished) or 3.80 (highly distinguished).

• **Sigma Pi Sigma** is a national Physics Honor Society recognizing outstanding scholarship in physics. To be eligible a student must have completed PHYS 370 and/or ASTR 377 and have a departmental GPA of at least 3.5.

1.3.1 Monetary Awards

Departmental and School opportunities. Details are subject to change.

• The **Bob Dukes Scholarship** for incoming astrophysics majors, is a renewable $2500/year award. Recipients must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.2 in the major to retain the scholarship. It is not automatically renewed. It is meant to attract strong aspiring astrophysicists to the department. It may go to a current student if there are no suitable incoming freshmen. Qualified applicants must submit a personal statement outlining the their professional goals and means of attaining those goals and the latest unofficial transcript.

• The **Energy Production Award** of $1000 is made possible by a gift from Mr. Adam Dean (BS '06). It is awarded on a competitive basis for academic achievement. Full-time declared physics majors pursuing the Energy Production concentration will be considered. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required. The award is not renewable.

• The **J. Fred Watts Scholarship ($1000)** may be awarded annually to a major who is pursuing teaching certification in physics or astronomy. Applicants must submit a one-page typed essay that outlines their educational and professional goals and means of attaining those goals. Essays must be submitted to the Chair of the Department. The scholarship is renewable; however, the student must re-apply for the scholarship and submit a revised essay that outlines what actions he or she has taken to achieve the goals.

• The **Horatio Hughes Memorial Scholarship** was established in memory of Dr. Horatio Hughes, class of 1905, and distinguished professor of chemistry and physics. It may be used to recruit exemplary freshman, but generally will be awarded to students already in the program. Renewable up to four years with 3.0 GPA or higher. We expect to give one summer research award of about $3000, and probably four academic scholarships of about $1500 each per year.

Qualified applicants must submit a two-page typed essay to the Chair of the Department's Resources Committee (currently Dr. Williams, williamsjg@cofc.edu) by a date set early each spring.
The first page of the essay should outline the student's professional goals and means of attaining those goals. The second page of the essay should outline the proposed summer research project. Applicants for the summer research scholarship must have a letter of recommendation submitted on their behalf by the faculty member supervising the research project. The award winners will be announced at the end of the semester.

- The Harry E. Ricker, Jr. Endowed Award was established by Dr. Harry E. Ricker, Jr., class of 1965.

The Ricker award of $500 will be used to assist a rising sophomore, junior, or senior major in physics. The student must have a strong academic record and demonstrate the need for financial aid. Recipients will be selected by the Department. The award will be presented at the College's annual graduation weekend Awards Ceremony.

Qualified applicants must submit a one-page typed essay to the Chair of the Department's Resources Committee (currently Dr. Larsen, larsenml@cofc.edu) by a date set early each spring semester. The essay should outline the student's professional goals and demonstrate the need for financial aid. Qualified applicants must also submit an unofficial student transcript.

- Boeing Scholarships are administered by the School of Sciences and Mathematics (SSM). They are made possible by generous donations from Boeing Corporation located in North Charleston. Recipients will be awarded $2500 each for the academic year.

Qualifications:

- Full-time student
- GPA of 3.2 or better
- Excellent leadership and communication skills
- Strong interest in pursuing a career in the aerospace industry
- Boeing Scholars will be encouraged to pursue internships in the aerospace industry, specifically with the Boeing Corporation.

Past recipients are eligible to apply. Applications are generally due to the Office of the SSM Dean in April. Special attention will be given to students with backgrounds that are typically underrepresented in the aerospace industry.

- Quattrochi Scholarships are also administered by SSM. It is awarded each spring by application through the SSM Dean's Office to a junior or senior major in the sciences or mathematics. Student must have a 3.5 GPA and submit a handwritten essay. Renewable by permission of the awarding committee.

1.4 Philosophy

Physics is the present day equivalent of what used to be called natural philosophy, from which most of modern science arose. It investigates the properties, changes, and interactions of matter and energy. Physics is the most fundamental and all-inclusive of the sciences, both life and physical, because its subject matter is at the root of every field of science and underlies all human experience.

The study of physics does not involve following a specific recipe or set of rules, rather it entails developing an attitude or way of looking at phenomena and asking questions. Physicists seek to understand how the physical universe works, no matter what the scale of observation—from quarks to quasars, from the time it takes a proton to spin around to the age of the cosmos. The answers to these questions are summarized into statements called laws. We live in the age of physical law. Awareness of the beauty, harmony, and interplay of the laws of physics greatly enhances our understanding and appreciation of our environment.

Courses available from the Department of Physics and Astronomy offer a student the opportunity to examine the physical universe from electricity and magnetism to subatomic particles, from stars to dust grains; from sound and music to laser spectroscopy. Laboratory and research experiences enable the student to develop abilities in experimental techniques, data gathering and analysis, and presentation. While class work is concerned mainly with learning basic facts, laws and problem solving methods, there is ample material for discussion of real-world problems and the role of physics in society.

We expect you to mature as you continue through the program. Students entering upper level courses are expected to be more independent, self-motivated and responsible than in previous courses. By the time you are a junior you should be thinking of yourself more as a professional. Your attitudes and actions in classes, research,
and as you represent the College and Department should reflect this advancement.

The Department has assembled a list of educational objectives for its majors. These objectives are gathered under the following categories: communication, experimental physics, theoretical physics and history and biography. Graduates should be able to communicate effectively through written and oral presentation. All graduates should be able to assemble appropriate equipment and to perform measurements that enable them to analyze physical phenomena. Students should possess the skills and techniques (mathematical, statistical, graphical, computer and writing) necessary to successfully interpret and analyze their experimental data. Critical examination of experimental results should lead to improved experimental design. Theoretical course work should enable majors to solve problems in diverse fields such as astrophysics, mechanics, electricity and magnetism, optics, quantum mechanics, thermodynamics, and statistical mechanics depending on the specific course work completed. This analytical ability is grounded on an extensive set of mathematical tools acquired in appropriate mathematics courses (specified by course prerequisites). Graduates should be aware of the ideas and linkages implicit in the history and biography of physics.

A bachelor-level physicist should be able to

- understand physical laws and principles
- apply physical knowledge to understand how things work
- conduct laboratory research (design and execute experiments)
- solve problems (theoretical and practical)
- conduct data analysis
- write comprehensive reports and make oral presentations
- address important scientific issues that we encounter as individuals and a society
- conduct literature research
- use a computer as a tool for all of the above

The major programs achieve educational goals through course sequencing. Depth is provided through a spiraling visitation to a broad subject core. Study begins with the two-semester introductory sequence. This gateway course surveys the entire discipline and provides direct experience with physical phenomenon through the laboratory. Fluency in mathematics, the language of physics, is necessary to continue and to complete the major. The degree of mathematical proficiency needed depends on the exact course sequence followed. Course selection in turn depends on whether a student seeks a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science degree. Many advanced courses require mastery of at least calculus through multivariable calculus and vector analysis and differential equations. Writing assignments are integral to all labs and to many courses.

2 Computer Proficiency

We expect incoming students to have a set of proficiencies when it comes to computer use. This proficiency is a moving target. Every year students enter with higher levels of experience, and the curriculum makes increasing demands on it. Generally speaking any entering freshman considering a technical field for a major should be comfortable with a wide variety of computer skills.

Along the road to your degree you are expected to hone your incoming skills and acquire more skills. For example, you will learn to use Mathematica™ in phys230, LATEX in phys370 or astr377, and perhaps other important programs such as IDL™ and MATLAB™. These tools are useful in coursework, research, and your future job.

3 Research and Internships

The Physics and Astronomy Department strongly encourages students, particularly those bound for graduate school, to get involved in research. The experience you gain in research is valuable, even if the particular research project isn't something you expect to make your life's work. Clearly the more advanced students will be the most marketable when trying to fit into a research environment, so don't be discouraged if there aren't any
openings when you are a freshman or sophomore. Taking more courses, and doing well in them will make you attractive to research programs.

Research experiences may be gotten informally or via courses such as phys390 and phys420, as paid or unpaid research assistants to department faculty, or by participating in external research programs. Research experiences may be summer, academic year, or both.

There are two primary paths to take for summer research opportunities—internal and external. Our faculty have both multi-year research programs and shorter term research projects in which you may participate. In either case you should keep in touch with the faculty so that you know what opportunities exist. Students have also done research with faculty in other departments, particularly in mathematics, chemistry, and geology.

Externally there are a host of research opportunities beyond the College. One of the largest and most widely known is the REU program (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) that is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). It is primarily, but not exclusively, targeted to students between their junior and senior years of study. They typically employ you for 8-10 weeks over the summer and pay attractive salaries. The REU program is extremely broad, and you should peruse it to get a sense of the program’s offerings—http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm. Also, ask other students and faculty about opportunities for internal and external summer research.

Typically, applications are made to REU programs in the late fall, but cut-off dates vary, and many extend well into the spring. To help your chances of getting an REU slot, plan ahead, get relevant courses under your belt, flesh out your resumé, and get research experience.

Internships are a valuable mechanism to get experience and training for a career. We have a course, phys381, that allows an internship to receive academic credit which may apply to your major or general course requirements. Appendix G has information about the program.

3.1 Astronomy Facilities

Though some of the department’s astronomical equipment is in storage because of the renovation of the Rita Hollings Science Center, we still have abundant opportunities for astronomical observation and research. The department has several large, portable instruments including a 16-inch Newtonian on a Dobsonian mount, a 14-inch GPS computer-controlled Ritchey Chretien instrument mounted on a transportable pier, a 10-inch computer-controlled Schmidt Cassegrain instrument on an alt-azimuth mount and a tripod-mounted Vixen 25 x 125 binocular telescope.

Through various granting agencies, our students and faculty have consistently obtained data access and observing time on world class instruments including the Hubble Space Telescope in low Earth orbit, the Subaru telescope on Mauna Kea in Hawaii, Chandra, BATSE (archival) and Spitzer.

While our fleet of 8-inch computer-controlled telescopes are in storage during the building renovation, we still maintain at a temporary location for twenty-four 8-inch polar-mounted Schmidt Cassegrain telescopes used in our beginning and advanced astronomy labs.

The College is a member of the Consortium for Astronomical Research and Education (CARE) at the Uni-
versity of the Virgin Islands Etelman Observatory (http://astro.uvi.edu), located at St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands. In partnership with the University of the Virgin Islands, we upgraded the facility to a fully automated, robotically-controlled and queue-driven 0.5-meter research-grade telescope that gives our students and faculty access to more of the southern sky. This site is the eastern-most observatory in the Americas allowing observations of objects that are below the horizon in Charleston or any other North American observatory. Department research teams use the telescope for astronomical research that spans a variety of topics, including rapid-response follow-up observations of gamma-ray bursts as part of the NASA Swift (http://swift.gsfc.nasa.gov) Follow-up Team.

Our advanced computing lab in room 221 JC Long has computers used for astronomical research and telescope control.

3.2 Physics Facilities

Research opportunities in both experiment and theory are continuously expanding. Get to know the faculty and your fellow students to see what research opportunities are open and interesting to you.

We have research labs for biomedical optics, critical-point fluids, photo-acoustic spectroscopy, and resonant ultrasound spectroscopy. Special instrumentation includes an FT-IR Spectrometer, spectrophotometers, and both a scanning electron microscope (SEM) and an atomic force microscope (AFM). We also have a gamma-ray spectrometer with alpha- and beta-counting capability.

We have a research lab in soft condensed matter (liquids, colloids, granular materials, and a number of biological materials) and image processing. We conduct low angle scattering experiments on nanocolloids and perform image processing to enhance and de-noise data and then characterize the concentration induced fluctuations that take place in colloids. The lab also shares and analyzes unique experimental data on supercritical fluids recorded in micro-gravity through a collaboration with Ecole Supérieure de Physique et Chimie Paris Tech and Institut de Chimie de la Matière Condensée de Bordeaux, France.

3.3 Meteorology/Atmospheric Physics

Four faculty members are involved in atmospheric physics and meteorology research. This field includes analyzing and modeling the earth’s atmosphere on scales from nanometers to megameters. Our faculty and students do this through theoretical, computational, and experimental investigations.

The College of Charleston is an Academic Affiliate of the University Corporation for Academic Research, UCAR, which runs NCAR, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, one of the most prestigious institutes for environmental research in the world.

We are one of the few meteorology programs with direct computer access to current National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather data through the UNIDATA program. We have meteorology instrumentation such as photometers (for cloud investigation), and a micrometeorological particulate laboratory. Finally, we closely cooperate with the local National Weather Service (NWS) office, where many of our undergraduates have assisted.

Equipment for meteorology and atmospheric physics research includes an air quality laboratory being outfitted now, plus current equipment including 3 turn-key weather stations (one with piezoelectric drop sensor and one with a small radar), 3 optical particle counters, 21 laser precipitation monitors, a 2-dimensional video disdrometer, and a large number of data acquisition and data processing computers.

3.4 Computing Facilities

The Department maintains a computer lab in room 218 and a more advanced lab in room 221. The 218 lab is for general student use, including non-majors who are taking physics classes. The software includes both general purpose and special research and technical productivity software. Ask for help if you need an introduction to the computers or the software. It is under the supervision of Mr. True and Dr. Wragg. There is an adjacent small
library and study area for our majors. The advanced computing labs in room 221, host special hardware and software primarily for research groups. Speak with individual research faculty for access to those computers.

The College maintains a research-grade parallel Linux computer cluster. The cluster has 4 sets of nodes (with a total of 340 AMD Opteron 64-bit processors): 10 2-CPU, 2.0 GHz nodes; 16 4-CPU, 2.0 GHz nodes; 8 8-CPU, 2.9 GHz nodes, and 8 24-CPU, 2.1 GHz nodes. All of the nodes share a common file system, with over 10 TB of total storage capacity. It is heavily used by Dr. Fragile and his team for studies of material flow near black holes.

For teaching biophysical modeling and signal/image processing courses we use 17 MacBookPro laptops. Computational biophysics and signal/image processing research resources include

- One quad-core HP server, 64 GB RAM, 8 TB of network storage.
- Two 6-core and one 12-core MacPro, with 24 TB of network storage.
- Two customized systems (16- and 32-cores).

Computational simulations of atmospheric radiative transfer by Dr. Larsen’s research group relies on several customized systems for doing video-card based computation. These systems include:

- 8 video-card, 12-core system with 144 GB of RAM
- 4 video-card, 12-core system with 64 GB of RAM
- 2 video-card, 48-core system with 512 GB of RAM

The rules for computer use are fairly common-sense. Use them, don’t abuse them. Please do not load software applications without specific permission from the overseers.

### 3.5 Senior Research—phys420/499

Reasoning critically, planning, making decisions, analyzing, drawing conclusions and working independently are valuable, marketable assets. For most careers these abilities are a requirement as important as teamwork. Your coursework has helped to develop and hone these skills. The final polishing and capstone experience of your undergraduate training in the Physics Department will be your senior research project. This is your opportunity to show what you can accomplish—self education through careful library research, conceive a workable project of your own or connect with a faculty member’s research, plan every detail and present the results in a professional and scholarly fashion in writing and orally. Of course, you will have the guidance of your project advisor.

The following guidelines and requirements will help you prepare for your senior project. In phys419 you will, among other things, prepare a formal proposal which describes the research project you will undertake in phys420 or phys499 (the year-long version of 420 undertaken mostly by students in the Honors College).

The general flow is—you find a research advisor and a project (in either order) with the support of the 419 instructor. In close consultation with the advisor and with guidance from the 419 instructor, you write the proposal. The 419 instructor serves as the reviewer of the proposal, since it is a formal part of 419. Once the reviewer is satisfied with the proposal you, your advisor, and the 419 instructor sign a Special Enrollment Form that will stay with the proposal. The signed form and the proposal are presented to the Chair who can sign it and forward it to the Registrar for enrollment of the student in 420. The Chair may have questions or choose to require further development. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up on things, to make sure you are enrolled officially in phys420/499. Check on-line to make sure you are enrolled. See Appendix C for the evaluation criteria, purchasing procedures, and expectations.

The advisor and project need not be in the Department. It is common to do research in other departments or outside organizations. If so, you still need to have an internal departmental advisor, who is responsible for assigning a grade, in consultation with your actual research advisor.

The intent of the proposal is to help you develop a professional approach to a project, and a template for professional progress through the project. The department expects a good faith effort to execute the research that was proposed. Research projects, by their very nature, require frequent re-evaluation during their execution. Deviations from your proposed plan are to be expected, but you should justify them to your advisor’s satisfaction.

The department does not expect the proposal itself to be an exhaustive production, but you must make it clear what you are trying to do, and that you have the resources to do it—expertise, advising, equipment, space, money, time…. A well-written proposal could make this justification in as few as 3 pages.

Below are the basic issues that we ordinarily expect to be addressed in a proposal.

1. Who is doing it (student, advisor, collaborators)?

2. What is the problem being investigated, and how will it be investigated? Is it theoretical, computational, experimental, a combination? A brief background/motivation is usually appropriate, to clarify to the reviewers what aspect of the project the student will be responsible for.
3. Timeline: A list of expected interim tasks and their approximate dates of accomplishment.

4. Resources and Budget: what space, equipment, computing facilities, consumables etc. you expect to use, and an explicit list of things you expect to buy, and their costs.

5. Outcome: What will the research produce? How will your project be evaluated?

We expect a professional looking proposal, with a title page, abstract, and details. All proposals should be of the highest quality—professional form, layout, grammar, illustrations, references, narrative, etc.

Note also that your advisor and the phys419 instructor do not approve budgets, but rather evaluate them as reasonable. They have no spending authority and no authority to obligate funds. The department chair does.

At some point in your studies it is expected that you will present a poster at the SSM Poster Session (http://ssm.cofc.edu/special-programs/poster-session/), and present a talk at a national, regional or local venue. Your 420/499 project is often a good choice, and in many cases, the only practical opportunity for you to make these professional presentations.

There may be cases where a student needs to get a proposal approved outside of the usual phys419 experience. For example, if a previously approved proposal becomes impossible because the advisor got killed by a meteor, and the student needs a completely new project. The approval process and requirements are essentially the same. The student, in concert with the new project supervisor will prepare a proposal, which must be approved by the current or most recent (if there is no current 419 class) 419 instructor. It then goes to the department Chair for final approval. All the paperwork is the same as for the usual approval and enrollment process.

Appendix C has information regarding the procedures to follow if you need to make purchases of approved items for your project. There is also a brief section that codifies and clarifies some of the standard expectations you need to meet. These are things that often enter into the grading scheme. Please note that they are a guide only, and the actual details should be clarified between you and your advisor before you begin the project. The form provided is merely a suggested template.

3.5.1 Considerations

When writing the proposal you should keep in mind the following items which are generally considered by reviewers of proposals of any kind.

Title: Is it descriptive and appropriate?
Abstract: Does it encapsulate the project? What, if anything, is missing or extraneous?
Background: Does it give theory and history such that the reader is brought into the project?
Goals: Are the project and its goals clearly defined and reasonably achievable? Are appropriate criteria for evaluation included?
Figures: are diagrams, figures, and illustrations clear, well labeled, sufficient and well done?
Approach: Is the approach to the research clear?
Budget: Is the budget clear and realistic?
References: Are references appropriate in number and scope?
Workload: Is the project appropriate in terms of the expected workload and time constraints?
Resources: Are suitable facilities, equipment and expendables available?
Timeline: Is there a clear plan with due dates for intermediate accomplishments?
Appearance: Are the layout and typography professional?
Clarity: Is the proposal clearly written?
Editorial: General editorial issues (grammar, style, punctuation…)
Technical Issues: Any technical problems foreseen that could have a major impact on the project?

4 Degree Requirements

122 Hours are required to graduate. Please refer to the college catalog for the official requirements and listings. These things are subject to change. Also be aware that not every course listed in the catalog is offered every year, or even regularly. Scheduled classes may be cancelled due to under-enrollment, or for other reasons.

For all of our degree programs, under special circumstances, with department approval, phys101 and 102 (with associated labs) together with math120 and 220 may replace phys111 and 112 for our majors. In addition to requiring a grade of at least B in the phys101/102 courses other restrictions may apply.

With department approval, phys499 may be substituted for phys420. This does not decrease the number of hours of electives required for the major, it only substitutes for phys420.

4.1 B.S. in Physics

The BS in Physics consists of 43 hours of coursework in physics, 28 required + 15 elective hours, plus math prerequisites. The elective hours may be chosen with department approval from astr306, and any 300- or 400-level physics or astronomy course with a maximum of six credits total from phys381, phys390 and phys399.

Required courses for the BS in physics are:
phys111/112 General Physics I, II (4+4)
phys230 Modern Physics I (3)
phys301 Classical Mechanics I (3)
phys370 Experimental Physics (4)
phys403 Quantum Mechanics I (3)
phys409 Electricity & Magnetism I(3)
phys419 Research Seminar (1)
phys420 Senior Research (3)
+ 15 elective hours

Additional courses Strongly recommended to prepare you for advanced study:

phys404 Quantum Mechanics II (3)
phys405 Thermal Physics (3)
and from other departments:
math423 Partial Differential Eqns (3)
chem111/112 Princ. of Chem (4+4)
csci220 Computer Programming

4.2 B.A. in Physics

The BA in Physics requires 30 hours in physics, 19 required + 11 electives, plus math prerequisites. Electives: 11 additional hours in physics to be selected by the student, with the approval of the department, with a maximum of three credits each from the two groups (phys260/260L/460L), and (phys381, phys390, and phys399). The department expects the program to be cohesive in design, rather than a haphazard collection of courses.

Required courses for the BA in physics:
phys111/112 General Physics I, II (4+4)
phys230 Modern Physics I (3)
phys370 Experimental Physics (4)
phys419 Research Seminar (1)
phys420 Senior Research (3)
+ 11 elective hours

4.3 B.S. in Astrophysics

The BS in Astrophysics consists of 43 hours of coursework in physics and astronomy, plus math prerequisites.

Required courses for the BS in astrophysics are:
phys111/112 General Physics I, II (4+4)
phys230 Modern Physics I (3)
phys301 Classical Mechanics I (3)
phys403 Quantum Mechanics I (3)
phys405 Thermal Physics (3)
phys409 Electricity & Magnetism I(3)
phys419 Research Seminar (1)
phys420 Senior Research (3)
astr231 Intro to Astrophysics(3)
ast377 Experimental Astronomy (4)

Plus 9 credits from the following, with at least 6 from those in bold.

astr306 Planetary Astronomy (3)
astr311 Stellar Astronomy and Astrophysics (3)
astr312 Galactic/Extragalactic Astronomy (3)
phys412 Special Topics (in astronomy) (3)
astr413, Astrophysics (3)

phys390 Research (in astronomy) (3)
phys394 Digital Signal and Image Processing... (3+1)
phys404 Quantum Mechanics II (3)
phys407 Nuclear Physics (3)
phys410 Electricity & Magnetism II (3)
phys415 Fluid Mechanics (3)
astr410, Black Holes (1)
astr/geol/phys460L, NASA Mission Design Leadership Lab (1)

Plus Demonstrated skill in analytical computer programming (e.g. math245/246, or suitable experience)

Note that except for the substitution of ast377 for phys370, this qualifies for the B.S. in Physics. If the student takes ast377 and phys370, then they have a double major in Physics and Astrophysics.

4.4 B.A. in Astronomy

The BA in Astronomy consists of 30 hours of coursework in physics and astronomy, plus math prerequisites.

Required courses for the BA in astronomy are:
phys111/112 General Physics I, II (4+4)
astr231 Intro to Astrophysics (3)
astr377 Experimental Astronomy (3)
phys419 Research Seminar (1)
phys420 Senior Research (3)

Plus 11 additional hours from the following, with at least 6 from those in bold.
4.5 Concentrations

A concentration is a focused area of study within your major. We offer concentrations in energy production, computational neuroscience and meteorology.

4.5.1 Energy Production

A concentration in energy production consists of a minimum of 18 hours of coursework, which includes a core of chemistry and physics and a selection of electives.

Required Courses (8 credits)
chem111 General Chemistry I with lab (4 credits)
phys350 Energy Production with lab (4 credits)

Electives (10 credits, at least two courses from group I)
Group I-
phys320 Introductory Electronics (4 credits)
phys340 Photonics (4 credits)
phys405 Thermal Physics (3 credits)
phys407 Nuclear Physics (3 credits)
phys408 Solid State Physics (3 credits)

Group II-
phys381 Internship (energy related) (1-3 credits)
phys390 Research (energy related) (1-3 credits)
phys308 Atmospheric Physics (3 credits)
phys409 Electricity and Magnetism (3 credits)
phys412 Special Topics (energy related) (1-3 credits)
phys415 Fluid Mechanics (3 credits)
phys419 Seminar (1 credit)
phys420 Senior Research (energy related) (3 credits) or phys499, but only count 3 credits of its 6 credits toward the concentration
phys456 Air Pollution Meteorology (3 credits)
phys458 Climate Change (4 credits)
geol320 Earth Resources (3 credits)
chem341/341L Physical Chemistry (4 credits)
chem528 Nuclear and Radiochemistry (3 credits)

4.5.2 Computational Neuroscience

The CNS concentration targets those Physics/Mathematics/Computer Science/Discovery Informatics majors who are interested and have the adequate background to successfully pursue a mathematical and computational neuroscience program. The program requires a minimum of 18 hours of coursework, and there may not be double-counting towards other concentrations or minors.

Required Courses (11 credits)
CSCI 220 Computer Programming I (3)
CSCI 220L Computer Programming I Lab (1)
BIOL 396/PYS 396, Biophysical Modeling of Excitable Cells (3)
PHYS 394, Digital Signal and Image Processing with Biomedical Applications (with lab) (3)
PHYS 394L, Digital Signal and Image Processing with Biomedical Applications Lab (1)

2. Electives (Complete minimum 7 credit hours from the following electives. Each elective must be from a different group.)
Group I-
biol305 Genetics (3)
biol312 Molecular Biology (3)
biol313 Cell Biology (3)
biol321 General and Comparative Physiology (4)
biol343 Animal Behavior (4)
biol351/psyc351, Principles of Neurobiology (3)
biol352/psyc352, Neurobiology and Behavior (3)
biol446/psyc446, Special Topics in Neuroscience: Techniques in Neuroscience (4)
biol447/psyc447/NSCI 447, Seminar in Neuroscience (3)
psyc213 Conditioning and Learning (3)
psyc214 Behavioral Neuroscience (3)
psyc215 Cognitive Psychology (3)
psyc216 Sensation and Perception (3)
psyc221 Abnormal Psychology (3)
psyc318 Comparative Psychology (3)
psyc353 Hormones and Behavior (3)
psyc386 Behavioral Pharmacology (3)
psyc387 Neuropsychology (3)
psyc464 Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience with Lab (3)
psyc466 Advanced Sensation and Perception with Lab (3)
psyc468 Advanced Cognitive Psychology with Lab (3)

Group II-
math207 Discrete Structures I (3)
math307 Discrete Structures II (3)
math245 Numerical Methods and Math. Comp.(3)
math246 Mathematical Computing and Prog. Lab (1)
math445 Numerical Analysis (3)
math451 Linear Programming and Optimization (3)
math452 Operations Research (3)
math470 Mathematical Modeling (3)
math440 Statistical Learning I (3)
math441 Statistical Learning II (3)
csci221 Computer Programming II (3)
csci230 Data Structure and Algorithms (3)
csci334 Data Mining (3)
csci360 Software Architecture and Design (3)
csci362 Software Engineering (3)
csci380 User Interface Development (3)
csci470 Principles of Artificial Intelligence (3)
csci480 Principles of Computer Graphics (3)

Group III-
phys203 Physics and Medicine (3)
phys270 Nanotechnology in Medicine (3)
phys298 Special Topics* (1-3)
phys320 Intro to Electronics (4)
phys340 Photonics (4)
phys381, Internship* (3)
- or - (Not both!)
phys390, Research* (3)
phys390 Special Topics* (3-6)
phys390 Research* (1-3; repeatable up to 6)
phys399 Tutorial* (3; repeatable up to 12)
phys405, Thermal Physics (3)
phys407, Introduction to Nuclear Physics (3)
phys408, Introduction to Solid State Physics (3)
phys412, Special Topics* (3-4)
phys415, Fluid Mechanics (3)
phys420 Senior Research* OR (3)
phys499 Bachelor's Essay* OR biol448/psyc448/nsci448, Bachelor's Essay in Neuroscience (6)

*Must be CNS related and conducted under the mentorship of a neuroscience faculty from the C of C or co-mentorship with MUSC faculty. Prior written approval must be obtained from the coordinator of CNS concentration.

4.5.3 Meteorology

A concentration in meteorology consists of a minimum of 18 hours of coursework, which must include two meteorology courses from group I. Elective courses from group II will make up the balance:

Group I -
Two meteorology courses taken from the following five:
phys105 Introduction to Meteorology
phys308 Atmospheric physics
phys456 Air Pollution Meteorology
phys457 Satellite Meteorology
phys458 Climate Change

Group II - Elective courses:
astr306 Planetary Astronomy
phys298 Special Topics
phys301 Classical Mechanics
phys308 Atmospheric physics*
phys340 Photonics
phys390 Research
phys399 Tutorial
phys405 Thermal Physics
phys412 Special Topics
phys415 Fluid Mechanics
phys420 Senior Research
phys456 Air Pollution Meteorology*
phys457 Satellite Meteorology*
phys458 Climate Change*
phys499 Bachelor's Essay
biol204 Man and the Environment
biol342 Oceanography
chem111 Principles of Chemistry
evt200 Intro to Environmental Studies
geol200 Intro Environmental Geology

Note: Credit will not be awarded for both Senior Research (phys420) and Bachelor’s Essay (phys499/biol448/psyc448/nsci448).
Topics in geol290, hons390, phys298, 390, 399, 412, 420 and 499 must involve meteorology and must be approved by the meteorology concentration program director. Many of these courses require prerequisites which will not count towards the concentration unless they are on the list above. A minimum of three Physics courses are required to obtain a concentration. Students must notify the meteorology concentration program director prior to graduation to receive credit for the concentration on their transcript.

4.6 Minors

A minor is a focused area of study outside of your major. For example, if you are a geology major and are interested in geophysics you can get a minor in physics. There are currently four minors available through our department: Physics, Astronomy, Biomedical Physics, and Meteorology. Generally speaking minors require at least 18 credit hours from a specified set of courses in that field. At least 9 hours in the minor at the 200-level or above must be earned at the College.

4.6.1 Minor in Physics

Students must take a minimum of 18 hours in physics as listed below.

- Core courses: Phys111/112 (or honors physics, or may substitute 101/102 as described under the major)
- Electives: To add up to at least 18 hours. Most other physics courses, but must be approved by the Physics Minor Coordinator (Dr. Hakkila). Special topics, research, etc. must clearly be physics (not astro or meteorology). astr/geol/phys260, astr/geol/phys260L, and astr/geol/phys460L may be used as electives.

4.6.2 Minor in Astronomy

- Core courses: astr129/130 (or one year of honors astronomy, or astr206+astr311)
- Electives to add up to at least 18 hours. Geol206, hist251, phys101/102, phys111/112, astr205, astr206, astr210, astr/geol/phys260, astr/geol/phys260L, astr311, astr377, astr410, astr413, astr/geol/phys460L, phys298, phys301, phys340, phys 390, phys399, phys412, phys420, phys499. Special topics, research, etc. must be approved by the Astronomy Minor Coordinator (Dr. Hakkila). Astr206 and astr311 can only be used as electives if not used as the core.

4.6.3 Minor in Biomedical Physics

Students must take a minimum of 18 hours in physics and biology as listed below. A maximum of 3 credits of biology or chemistry courses at the 200-level and above may be counted toward the minor.

Core courses:
- phys102 Intro Physics II with lab (4 credits) OR phys112 General Physics II with lab (4 credits) OR hons158 Honors Physics II with lab (4 credits)
- biol112 Form and Function of Organisms with lab (4 credits) OR hons152 Honors Biology II with lab (4 credits)
- phys 203 Physics and Medicine (3 credits)
- phys 396/biol396 Biophysical Modeling of Excitable Cells (3 credits)
- Additional 4 credits from the following electives: phys270 Nanotechnology in Medicine (3 credits) phys320 Introductory Electronics (4 credits) phys390/biol397/chem481/482 Research OR phys/biol/chem399 Tutorial (1-3 credits subject to approval by the minor coordinator and research adviser)
- phys298 Special Topics (1-3 credits subject to approval by the minor coordinator)
- phys412 Special Topics (1-3 credits subject to approval by the minor coordinator)
- chem351 Biochemistry (3 credits)
- chem354L Biochemistry Lab (1 credit)

Sample schedule:
Year 1: phys102 w/lab, biol112 w/ lab
Year 2: phys203 , phys/biol396
Year 3: phys270
Year 4: phys390, biol397, or chem481

4.6.4 Minor in Meteorology

- Core courses: phys105 or phys308. Phys111/112 (or honors physics, or may substitute 101/102 as described under the major). At least one meteorology-based course from: hons390, phys105, 298, 308, 390, 399, 412, 456, 457, 458, 499. The Meteorology Minor Coordinator is Dr. Lindner.
• Electives to add up to at least 18 hours. biol342, chem101 102, 441, envt200, geol 101, 205, 220, 290, 314, hons390, phys206, 298, 301, 340, 308, 390, 399, 405, 412, 415, 456, 457, 458, 499 Special topics, research, etc. must be approved by the Meteorology Minor Coordinator.

4.6.5 Minor in Neuroscience

Computational Neuroscience is a relatively new interdisciplinary area of inquiry that links the information processing features of the nervous system with information processing of computer systems. The department participates in the Minor in Neuroscience—http://catalogs.cofc.edu/undergraduate/neuroscience-minor.htm through the computational neuroscience research of Dr. Sorinel Adrian Oprisan. Courses integrate the key elements of both neuroscience and computing and will produce undergraduates uniquely able to converse in the languages of both disciplines. At the same time, course work in computational neuroscience can prepare students for graduate studies in neurobiology or psychology, or in the mathematical or engineering sciences. It can lead to either traditional academic careers or to opportunities in the corporate world.

Physics majors have the option of an interdisciplinary minor in neuroscience (http://blogs.cofc.edu/neuroscience/).

• Core courses: all physics major courses, biol351/psyc351 Principles of Neurobiology, biol352/psyc352 Neurobiology and Behavior, biol447/psyc447 Seminar in Neuroscience, biol448/psyc448 Bachelor’s Essay in Neuroscience, and phys/biol396 Biophysical Modeling of Excitable Cells

• Electives: two required (phys203 Physics and Medicine, phys270 Nanomedicine, etc.)

5 Advising

First and foremost, it is your responsibility to understand the requirements, to plan a program, and to make progress. Advisors merely advise, make suggestions, and give you their perspective on courses and choices. It is important that you maintain contact with your advisor, and other faculty members that can help you make good decisions about your program here. To facilitate this contact, we put a hold on your registration for classes until you speak with your department advisor. Our desire is to aid in your passage towards your goals, but you must be pro-active in the process. We realize that your goals can change. It it important that you let your advisor know as soon as you know, so you can reconfigure your academic plan.

Here are some common issues:

• The single most common problem is a lack of progress in math. Take math every semester to get the necessary courses, and, depending on your goals, take even more, for example Partial Differential Equations would be strongly recommended for graduate school bound students, going into physics or engineering type careers. Take Linear Algebra as early as you can, concurrently with calc II or III. Only students entering the job market with bachelors degree should consider phys272 as their terminal math class. See the note in the course listings for phys272.

• In the second semester of your junior year you should file an application for graduation with the Registrar. See the Senior Information Website at http://www.cofc.edu/seniorinfo/.
• It is very common at universities to have courses listed in catalogs that are seldom offered. There are several reasons for this, but the important thing for you to be aware of is that being in the catalog doesn't mean that you will have an opportunity to take a specific course. The anticipated course offerings page in this handbook, and the course descriptions often give useful information about when courses may be offered.

• Courses that aren't regularly offered can be taught if there is sufficient interest by a group of students. Please talk with the chair if you want to have a course or a special topic course offered. Do it more than a semester beforehand.

• While we don't require a year of chemistry for our majors (many colleges do) we do recommend it, strongly for B.S. students, but also for B.A. students.

• The lower level astr129/130 astronomy classes are designed for non-science majors, so they are not part of the astronomy/astrophysics sequence for majors.

• In every course we teach we make an effort to connect the material to other areas and disciplines. Courses which are particularly broad in their integration and connection include Modern Physics (phys230/331), Atmospheric Physics (phys308), Stellar Astronomy and Astrophysics (astr311), and NASA Mission Design (astr/phys260/260L/460L).

• Engl110 must be taken continuously until you pass.

• Social Science: 6 hours from anthropology, economics, political science, psych or sociology

• Humanities: 12 hours, no more than 6 from any one area. A list of humanities courses is at http://registrar.cofc.edu/pdf/humanities.pdf

5.1 Your Plan

Make a plan for your progress towards a degree. Use the worksheets in Appendix B, and go through Degree Works on-line at http://registrar.cofc.edu/degreeworks/. Talk with your advisor or any department faculty member about it. The Program of Study Management (POSM) is a valuable on-line aid also. http://registrar.cofc.edu/posm/index.php

Appendix D shows anticipated course offerings for the next few regular academic terms. Note that special topics, May and summer offerings are generally not included. Generally speaking, special topics offerings are only established about a semester in advance, which is why they aren't shown beyond the first semester, if that. None of this is guaranteed either. Be aware that any course can be cancelled due to lack of enrollment, or for other reasons. The introductory astronomy sequence (astr129/130), and General Physics (phys111/112) are generally offered in the summer, in addition to the regular academic year sessions as shown.

There are also courses in the catalog that are not regularly offered. Sufficient student demand, expressed early enough (at least a semester ahead) can result in those courses being offered. Examples are phys302, Classical Mechanics II, phys404, Quantum Mechanics II, and phys410, Electricity and Magnetism II.

Of course, talk with your advisor, but in general, for BS and BA students the single most important piece of advice we can give you is to TAKE MATH EVERY SEMESTER until you have completed the math you will take. Beyond that, take phys301 and 409 earlier rather than later, especially if you are graduate school bound. You need to take these before you take the GRE test in the fall of your senior year. Taking 301 the spring of your junior year and 409 the fall of your senior year is a good plan.

If you plan on a biomedical-related path, take biol111/111L and biol112/112L as early as possible. They are prerequisites for core courses both for the interdisciplinary minor in neuroscience and the biomedical physics minor.

We often also recommend csci220, chem111/112, math245 and 423. Carefully select the physics and other courses that meet your needs. Make sure your senior research is consistent with your goals.

5.2 Career Goal Advice

In addition to a traditional graduate programs in physics or astronomy it is common to enter programs in engineering, medicine, meteorology, atmospheric physics, oceanography, optics, applied physics, engineering physics, business, and education. Particularly strong fields in recent years include environmental science (the College has a masters degree program in this area), meteorology/atmospheric physics, and medical/health physics. Graduate school in physics or related fields such as physical oceanography, meteorology, electrical engineering, nuclear engineering, and computer science are common tracks to take.

If you are one of the many graduate school bound seniors you need to seriously consider a regimented preparation program for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and the MCAT or similar tests. The Center for Student Learning (CSL), 3-5635, has the Post-Grad Test Prep Program. They run weekly workshops to prepare students for the general GRE (other workshops too for MCAT, LSAT, etc.). Additionally the CSL offers printed materials that will help. Our club maintains test materials...
for the GRE.

The bachelor of science degree requires at least one revisit to all major subject areas at an advanced level. The degree programs allow some flexibility so that you can pursue electives that strengthen your program, and allow you to pursue your interests.

It usually isn't necessary to know exactly what you want to do. Even graduating seniors about to enter graduate school or the work force seldom know what they will end up doing. You will be exposed to a lot of things here and elsewhere in your education. Don't commit to something earlier than is necessary. Our students are well prepared to compete in programs beyond the bachelor's level and in the work force. No one expects you to know it all yet. Please see our web pages, http://physics.cofc.edu/student-ops/job.php, for links to many career related sites.

We are pleased to help our students market themselves, whether to graduate schools, professional schools, or in the job market. In addition to further education in physics, medicine, or engineering, the job market for those with a bachelor's degree includes technical sales, technical field representative, education, technical writing, laboratory technician, medical equipment maintenance, repair or operation, computer programming, and many engineering-type positions. We can help you prepare resumés and perhaps inform you about the scientific aspects of a job you are interested in.

Since all of the department faculty have been to graduate school, we have a good perspective on the process. Our web pages at http://physics.cofc.edu/student-ops/more-school.php are an excellent reference to the process, and we are pleased to talk with you about it, both formally, in phys419 and informally at other times. Talk with several faculty if you are contemplating graduate or professional school in any field.

5.2.1 Jobs with a BS in physics

It is common to sell yourself as a versatile engineering-type. Elective classes you select should reflect your desire to enter the job market in technical fields. Especially helpful courses include: Photonics, (phys340), Electronics (phys320), Solid State (phys408), Technical Writing (engl334), and Chemistry (chem111/112), and computer proficiency, via csci220 or other experience. Make your senior research project one of an applied nature. Cultivate skills that are marketable: proficiency with specialized computer programs such as Mathematica\textsuperscript{TM}, MATLAB\textsuperscript{TM}, \LaTeX, and a variety of computer skills, including unix operating systems. Summer jobs and internships in industry are a very valuable experience. A wide range of markets employ physicists. Don't search only for jobs with physics in the job title, there are many more with "engineer" or "scientist" in the title.

We provide advice and assistance for graduates entering the job market. Please refer to our web pages at http://physics.cofc.edu/student-ops/job.php for a good starting point. The American Institute for Physics (AIP) is an excellent resource for career related information--careers, salaries, and employment trends. http://www.aip.org/statistics/

Resumés are a critical communications mechanism for anyone looking to change their position, either to move into other educational opportunities (such as grad school) or in the job market. Resumés are used to simplify the process of evaluating student candidates for research positions, both within the department and externally. In phys230 and 419 you will have the opportunity to prepare a resumé that will serve as a template for future resumés. Please refer to our web pages on resumé and cover letter preparation at http://physics.cofc.edu/student-ops/resume.php. Department faculty are always willing to edit your resumé and cover letters. Never send out important application documents without competent editing by someone else.

5.2.2 Grad School Bound Physicists

There are many sub-fields in physics–solid state physics (often used synonymously with condensed matter physics), nuclear physics, laser physics, surface physics, fractals, chaos, atmospheric, plasma, relativity, vacuum, fluids... They all have complementary experimental, theoretical and computational disciplines and are often closely allied with studies in other scientific disciplines. Some sense of your field of interest is useful, but not vital, when searching for graduate school opportunities. Dr. Wragg is a valuable resource for guidance on graduate school admission, as are other faculty members.

5.2.3 Astronomers

Astronomy historically has dealt with the positions and apparent motions of stars, while astrophysics was applied to the study of the nature of stars, primarily using spectroscopy. In current usage the terms are interchangeable. A BS degree in Astrophysics gives you a structured program preparing you for graduate or professional placement in the field.

5.2.4 Medical School

Statistics show that a physics degree is a very good preparation for medical school. The acceptance rate to medical school for students with physics degrees is high. We can easily structure a program that allows you to take the important chemistry and biology courses as part of your program of study for the BA or BS degree in physics. It
is also likely that we can make your research experience relevant to medicine and medical research.

Dr. Linda Jones is the primary departmental resource for students interested in this field. Ms. Karen Eippert is the College's Director of Pre-professional Health Advising, so if you are interested in becoming a physician, you need to be in contact with her. She is the expert on qualifications, applications and entrance exam details. Her office is room 132 NSCB, and she is on the web at http://healthprof.cofc.edu/.

5.2.5 Meteorologists

We have a program to prepare you for work or graduate education in meteorology or atmospheric physics. If you are heading into a graduate program you should take classes in Fluid Mechanics, Thermodynamics, Atmospheric Physics and other meteorology electives. Other strongly recommended things include the GIS class in the Geology Department, IDL graphics and programming, and learn the Unix/Linux computer operating system that is used in many research environments. Consult with Dr. Lee Lindner for more information.

5.2.6 Physics Teachers

The Physics and Astronomy Department is affiliated with the School of Education in providing a BA/BS in Physics with certification to teach physics in South Carolina schools. Our students have done research projects in science education as their senior research projects. Dr. Ana Oprisan, RHSC room 305, phone 953-7582, is the person to talk with in the Department of Physics and Astronomy about the physical sciences requirements and/or preparing a capstone project. Several other Department faculty members have significant involvement with pre-college education, from running science workshops for teachers, to visiting schools to present science programs. Teachers with strong physics and math credentials have excellent employment opportunities. Dr. Meta Van Sickle, room 213, 86 Wentworth, phone 953-6357, is the person to talk with in the School of Education about preparing yourself for teaching certification in physics. This program is lengthy, involving extensive education and physics coursework, so early entry is desirable. See the Teacher Education Program Worksheet which are available from http://ehhp.cofc.edu/student-resources/pos.php for important details. The rewards and job opportunities are many for those who complete the certification process.
5.3 Sample Programs of Study

Please note that these programs are representative only, and are subject to individual needs, interests, and backgrounds, as well as to course offering schedules. Problems progressing in the major are most often related to progress in mathematics classes that prepare you for the physics and astronomy classes. It is vital to attack the mathematics you need as early as you possibly can.

5.3.1 BS in Physics

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>phys419 Research Seminar (1)</td>
<td>phys420, Senior Research (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phys403, Quantum Mechanics I (3)</td>
<td>Physics Elective (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics Elective (3)</td>
<td>Humanity/Soc. Sci. (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanity/Soc. Sci. (3)</td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>(total = 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(total = 16)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Carefully consider your goals and talk with your advisor for recommendations of the courses to fill out your studies. Remember, it isn't your goal to graduate just having met the minimum requirements. Your success in educational programs beyond the BS and in the workplace is closely tied to the breadth and depth of your undergraduate program.

Graduate schools would normally expect that you have taken Thermal Physics (phys405) and the second semester of Quantum Mechanics (phys404). Your preparation would also be considerably enhanced by taking Partial Differential Equations (math423).
### 5.3.2 BA in Physics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman Fall</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>math120, Calc I (4)</td>
<td>math220, Calc II (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phys111, General Physics I (4)</td>
<td>phys112, General Physics II (4)</td>
</tr>
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<td>engl110, Freshman Comp (4)</td>
<td>hist101/103 (3)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Sophomore Spring</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>math203, Linear Algebra (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>math221, Calc III (4)</td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
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<td>Physics elective (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language I (3)</td>
<td>Language II (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hist102/104 (3)</td>
<td>Humanity/Soc. Sci. (3)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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<td>Humanity/Soc. Sci. (3)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(total = 16)</td>
<td>(total = 15)</td>
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</table>

Physics electives are at least 11 additional hours with department approval from any 200-, 300-, or 400-level physics courses. Often the BA is for students with specific goals, such as medical school or education, and these goals dictate courses not illustrated in the above program.
5.3.3 BS in Astrophysics

Immediate entry into the calculus sequence is vital to the progress of the program.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Freshman Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>(total = 14)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Sophomore Spring</td>
</tr>
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<td>astr231 Intro to Astrophysics (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>math221, Calc III (4)</td>
<td>math323, Differential Eqns (3)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>(total = 15)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Junior Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Astro elective (3)</td>
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<td>math301, Classical Mechanics (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science (3)</td>
<td>Social Science (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hist102/104 (3)</td>
<td>Astro elective (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(total = 17)</td>
<td>(total = 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Fall</td>
<td>Senior Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phys419 Research Seminar (1)</td>
<td>phys420, Senior Research (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phys403, Quantum Mechanics I (3)</td>
<td>math245, Numerical Methods (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(total = 13)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 43 credits in the major, with department approval, is required for graduation. Note that not every course is offered every year, so you must plan ahead.

Carefully consider your goals and talk with your advisor for recommendations of the courses to fill out your studies. If your advisor is not an astronomer, you should probably change to one who is. Other astronomy faculty are also happy to share their recommendations with you at any time.

Remember, it isn't your goal to graduate just having met the minimum requirements. Your success in educational programs beyond the BS and in the workplace is closely tied to the breadth and depth of your undergraduate program.

Graduate schools would normally expect that you have computer programming skills. You would also be expected to have some observational astronomy experience, and experience with acquisition of data and data reduction using common astronomical tools and techniques. These skills can be obtained in special topics classes, experimental astronomy (astr377), and in research experiences. It would be a good idea for the prospective astronomer to be a teaching assistant (TA) in astr129/130, the introductory astronomy sequence, which is primarily taken by non-science majors. The TA experience will enhance your knowledge of the sky, and some of the basic skills in astronomy, and make you a more attractive candidate for many graduate programs due to your classroom experience.
### 5.3.4 BA in Astronomy

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<td>phys111, General Physics I (4)</td>
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<td>engl110, Freshman Comp (4)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language I (3)</td>
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<td>(total = 17)</td>
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<td>(total = 16)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sophomore Fall</th>
<th>Sophomore Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>elective</td>
<td>astr231 Intro to Astrophysics (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Astro elective (3)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>hist101/103 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(total = 16)</td>
<td>(total = 17)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Fall</th>
<th>Junior Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Elective (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>astr377, Exp. Astro (4)</td>
<td>Astro elective (3)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Humanity (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science (3)</td>
<td>Social Science (3)</td>
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<td>hist102/104 (3)</td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(total = 17)</td>
<td>(total = 15)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Fall</th>
<th>Senior Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>phys419 Research Seminar (1)</td>
<td>phys420, Senior Research (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(total = 13)</td>
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</table>

A total of 30 credits in the major, with department approval, is required for graduation. Note that not every course is offered every year, so you must plan ahead.

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It would be a good idea for the prospective astronomer to be a teaching assistant (TA) in astr129/130, the introductory astronomy sequence, which is primarily taken by non-science majors. The TA experience will enhance your knowledge of the sky, and some of the basic skills in astronomy, and make you a more attractive candidate for many teaching positions due to your classroom experience.
Appendices

A Department Faculty and Staff

Narayanan “NK” Kuthirummal, Associate Professor and Chair, office: 215 JCL, phone: 3-7457, email: kuthirummaln@cofc.edu. B. Sc. Calicut Univ., India, M. Sc. Cochin Univ., India, Ph.D. Banaras Hindu Univ., India. Interests: spectroscopy, optical and thermal properties.

Joseph Carson, Associate Professor, office: 212 JCL, phone: 3-3643, email: carsonjc@cofc.edu. B.A. Pomona College, M.S. and Ph.D., Cornell University. Interests: Exo-planets, planet and star formation, and adaptive optics.

George Chartas, Associate Professor, office: 206 JCL, phone: 3-3609, email: chartasg@cofc.edu. B.S. Univ. of Patras, Ph.D. Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison. Interests: Accretion and outflows in active galactic nuclei, imaging the environments of supermassive black holes, quasar evolution, gravitational lensing, X-ray astronomy and instrumentation.

Robert J. Dukes, Jr., Professor Emeritus, email: dukesr@cofc.edu. B.S. Univ. of Arizona, M.S. U. of Texas at El Paso, Ph.D. Univ. of Arizona. Interests: Observational astronomy, automated telescopes, variable stars.

P. Chris Fragile, Associate Professor, office: 207 JCL phone: 3-3181, email: fragilec@cofc.edu. B.S. Duke. Ph.D. Notre Dame. Interests: Computational astrophysics, particularly numerical simulations of novel hydrodynamic and magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) effects in astrophysics.

Jon Hakkila, Professor and Associate Dean of the Graduate School, office: 214 JCL, phone: 3-6387, email: hakkilaj@cofc.edu. B.A., Univ. of California-San Diego, M.S., Ph.D. New Mexico State University. Interests: Gamma-ray bursts, data mining.


Michael L. Larsen, Assistant Professor, office: 217 JCL, phone: 3-2128, email: larsenml@cofc.edu. B.S. and Ph.D. Michigan Technological University. Interests: atmospheric microphysics and physical meteorology.

B. Lee Lindner, Associate Professor, office: 225 JCL, phone: 3-8288, email: lindnerb@cofc.edu. B.S. University of Washington, Ph.D. University of Colorado. Interests: Atmospheric physics, terrestrial and Martian atmospheres.

Gardner Marshall, Instructor, office: 222 JCL, phone: 3-1015, email: marshallgr@cofc.edu. B.A., Univ. of California-San Diego, M.S., Ph.D. University of Colorado. Interests: Theoretical particle physics, which includes topics such as Higgs bosons, supersymmetry, and models of dark matter.

Alfair Meredith, Administrative Assistant, email: mereditha@cofc.edu. office: 216b JCL, phone: 3-5593

Laney R. Mills, Professor Emeritus, email: millsrl@cofc.edu. B.S., B.A. Southwestern at Memphis, M.S., Ph.D. Louisiana State University. Interests: Chaos, nonlinear systems, climate modeling.

James Neff, Professor, office: 204 JCL (on loan to NSF this year), phone: 3-5325, email: neffj@cofc.edu. B.S. Univ. of Iowa, M.S., Ph.D. University of Colorado. Interests: Experimental stellar astrophysics, spectroscopy, local interstellar medium and plasma astrophysics.

Ana Oprisan, Associate Professor, office: 229 JCL, phone: 3-7582, email: oprisana@cofc.edu. B.S. in Physics from Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania. M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of New Orleans. Interests: Theory and experiment of fluids near the critical point, large scale fluid flow, and diffusion limited aggregation.

Sorinel Adrian Oprisan, Associate Professor, office: 228 JCL, phone: 3-0780, email: oprians@cofc.edu. BS and Ph.D. in physics from Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania. M.S. in Computer Science from the Univ. of New Orleans. Interests: computational neuroscience, statistical physics and swarm intelligence.
Laura Penny, Professor, office: 208 JCL, phone: 3-8290, email: pennyl@cofc.edu. B.S. Trinity University, M.S., Ph.D. Georgia State University. Interests: Stellar astronomy, binary star evolution.

Mani Pokharel, Physics Lab Manager, office: 303 HWWE, phone: 3-5864, email: pokharelm@cofc.edu. M.S. Western Illinois University, Ph.D. Boston College. Interests: Materials science, thermoelectrics.

Norris Preyer, Associate Professor Emeritus, email: preyern@cofc.edu. B.S., Ph.D. MIT. Interests: Computational physics, bio-optics.

Terry Richardson, Senior Instructor, office: 211 JCL, phone: 3-8071, email: richardson@cofc.edu. B.S. Univ. of South Carolina, M.S. Vanderbilt, Ed.S. George Peabody College. Interests: Scientific photography and digital imaging.

Ian Rumsey, Assistant Professor, office: 226 JCL, phone: 3-0731, email: rumseyic@cofc.edu. PhD NCSU. Interests: Atmospheric science and air quality.

Greg Smith, Visiting Assistant Professor, office: 227 JC Long, phone: 3-0730, email: gsmith@cofc.edu. B.S. College of Charleston, Ph.D. Wake Forest. Interests: Organic electronics, specifically materials and devices including light-emitting diodes (OLEDs), photovoltaics (OPVs), field-effect transistors (OFETs), and thermoelectrics.

Alem Teklu, Associate Professor, office: 210 JCL, phone: 3-7187, email: teklua@cofc.edu. B.S. Asmara Univ, M.Sc. Addis Ababa Univ. M.S. Louisiana State Univ. Ph.D. LSU. Interests: Experimental solid state physics.

Chris True, Astronomy Lab Manager, office: 203b Bell, phone: 3-2031, email: truec@cofc.edu. B.S, M.S. Appalachian State University. Interests: Astronomy and optical systems.

Ana Uribe, Visiting Assistant Professor, office: 302 HWWE, phone: 3-8072, email: uribeal@cofc.edu. B.S. and M.S. in Physics, Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia. Ph.D. in Astronomy, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg (at Max-Planck-Institute for Astronomy), Germany. Interests: planet formation, protoplanetary disks, planet-disk interactions, numerical simulations, magneto-hydrodynamics, accretion processes, hot-Jupiter atmospheres.

Gabriel Williams, Assistant Professor, office: 223 JCL, phone: 3-0278, email: williamsgj@cofc.edu. B.S. Morehouse College, M.S. University of Texas at Brownsville, Ph.D. Colorado State University. Research interests: Dynamics and structural variability of tropical cyclones with broader interests in geophysical fluid dynamics.

Jeff Wragg, Senior Instructor, office: 209 JCL, phone: 3-5781, email: wraggj@cofc.edu. B.S. Boise State Univ., M.S. Univ. of Maine, Ph.D. Univ. of Missouri. Interests: Energy production, lasers, scanning probe and electron microscopy.
# B Graduation Checklists

Official degree worksheets for recent catalogs are at [http://registrar.cofc.edu/program-of-study-resources/program-of-study-worksheets/index.php](http://registrar.cofc.edu/program-of-study-resources/program-of-study-worksheets/index.php)

## B.1 BA Physics Checklist

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<th>General College Requirements</th>
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<th>Will Take</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>English 110</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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### BA Required courses in Physics (19 credits)

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<td>phys 112 (4) General Physics II</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phys 230 (3) Modern Physics I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phys 370 (4) Experimental Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys 419 (1) Research Seminar</td>
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### Physics Electives (11 credits)

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### Math courses

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### Other Electives

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<tr>
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<tbody>
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## B.2 BS Physics Checklist

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<td>English 110</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>phys 230 (3) Modern Physics I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>phys 301 (3) Classical Mechanics I</td>
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<td>phys 370 (4) Experimental Physics</td>
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<td>phys 403 (3) Quantum Mechanics I</td>
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<table>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>math 120 (4) Calculus I</td>
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<td>math 220 (4) Calculus II</td>
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<td>math 221 (4) Calculus III</td>
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<td>math 203 (3) Linear Algebra</td>
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<td>math 323 (3) Differential Equations</td>
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<th>Other Electives</th>
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### B.3 BA Astronomy Checklist

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<tr>
<th>General College Requirements</th>
<th>Taken</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English 110</td>
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<tr>
<td>History 101&amp;102 (or 103&amp;104)</td>
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<td>Foreign Language (0-12 credits)</td>
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<td>FYE</td>
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<td>Social Science (6 credits)</td>
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<td>Humanities (12 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<th>BA Required courses (18 credits)</th>
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<th>Will Take</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>phys111 (4) General Physics I</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys112 (4) General Physics II</td>
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<tr>
<td>astr231 (3) Intro to Astrophysics</td>
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<tr>
<td>astr377 (4) Experimental Astro</td>
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<td>phys419 (1) Research Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys420 (3) Senior Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys412(3) Special Topics (in astro)</td>
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**Plus 11 hours from the following**
(at least 6 from courses in **bold**)

Max 3 credits in phys390)

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Taken</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>astr205 (3) Intelligent Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>astr306 (3) Planetary Astro</td>
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<tr>
<td>astr311 (3) Stellar Astro</td>
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<tr>
<td>astr312(3) Galactic Astro</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys380 (3) Research (in astro)</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys412(3) Special Topics (in astro)</td>
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<tr>
<td>astr413 (3) Astrophysics</td>
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<tr>
<td>astr201 (3) Black Holes</td>
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<tr>
<td>astr260 (2) astr/geol/phys210 NASA Mission Design</td>
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<td>astr460 (1) astr/geol/phys210 NASA Leadership Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>geol206 (3) Planetary Geology</td>
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<td>geol412 (3) Crustal Geophysics</td>
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<td>phys230 (3) Modern Physics I</td>
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<td>phys301 (3) Classical Mechanics</td>
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<td>phys340 (4) Photonics</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys394 (3+1) Digital Signal and Image Processing...</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys403 (3) Quantum Mechanics</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys404 (3) Quantum Mechanics II</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys405(3) Thermal Physics</td>
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<td>phys407 (3) Nuclear Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys409 (3) Electricity &amp; Magnetism</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys410(3) Electricity &amp; Magnetism II</td>
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<tr>
<td>phys415(3) Fluid Mechanics</td>
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<thead>
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<tbody>
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Note that other math may be required as pre-reqs to some courses above
### B.4 BS Astrophysics Checklist

<table>
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**BS required courses**

**Physics** 27 credits
- phys 111/112 (4+4) General Physics I-II
- phys 230 (3) Modern Physics I
- phys 301 (3) Classical Mechanics I
- phys 403 (3) Quantum Mechanics
- phys 405 (3) Thermal Physics
- phys 409 (3) Electricity & Magnetism I
- phys 419 (1) Research Seminar
- phys 420 (3) Senior Research

**Astronomy**
- astr231 (3) Intro to Astrophysics
- astr377 (4) Experimental Astronomy

Plus at least 9 credits from the following, with at least 6 from the **bold**.
- astr306 (3) Planetary Astronomy
- astr311 (3) Stellar Astronomy
- astr312 (3) Galactic Astronomy
- phys412 (3) Special Topics (in astro)
- astr413 (3) Astrophysics

- phys390 (3) Research (in astro)
- phys394 (3+1) Digital Signal and Image Processing...
- phys404 (3) QM II
- phys407 (3) Nuclear Physics
- phys410 (3) E&M II
- phys415 (3) Fluid Mechanics
- astr410 (1) Black Holes
- astr260 (2) astr/geol/phys210 NASA Mission Design
- astr460 (1) astr/geol/phys210 NASA Leadership Lab

**Math courses**
- math 120 (4) Calculus I
- math 220 (4) Calculus II
- math 221 (4) Calculus III
- math 203 (3) Linear Algebra
- math 323 (3) Differential Equations

Plus other electives to get a total of 122 credits. You must also demonstrate skill in analytical computer programming via a suitable course or experience.
C 420/499 Proposals

C.1 Purchasing Procedures

Note also that your advisor and the phys419 instructor do not approve budgets, but rather evaluate them as reasonable. They have no spending authority and no authority to obligate funds. The department chair does.

1. Create a list of the items you wish to procure. Include the cost and vendor of these items.

2. On this page, obtain a signature of approval from your project advisor.

3. Obtain signature of approval from the department chair.

4. After approval by the department chair, requests should be brought to the lab manager for their assistance with the purchase.

   (a) If the vendors are local, with lab manager approval the student may make the necessary purchases and return all receipts to the lab manager for reimbursement.

   (b) If the vendor is not local, the lab manager will be responsible for procurement of the items.

CdS nanowires
C.2 420/499 Expectations

Your research project is expected to be the culmination of your undergraduate education. It is guided by a faculty member, but is independently executed by you. The burden of responsibility is yours, not your advisor's. You must demonstrate a mature approach to this responsibility. You must conduct your project in a timely fashion, maintaining close contact with your advisor. The presented products (the Poster Session, regional or national meeting presentation, and final written report) should be polished, professional products.

Your advisor may base your grade on these and/or other factors—

- Timeliness
- Diligence
- Scientific rigor
- Record keeping
- Oral Presentation
- Poster Session Presentation
- Final written report
- Attendance at Department seminars and colloquia

and, if in final term

- 300 word contemplative essay
- Exit interview with the Chair

(not graded, but must be submitted to Chair)

Due Dates (Adapted and completed by Advisor)

- Final report is due by _________________. (Timely drafts before then)
- Poster Session Entries are due ________________, The Poster Session is on _________________.
- Oral presentation is ________________. Abstracts are due by _________________.

Record Keeping

Record keeping in research is vital. Your advisor will likely mandate some formal mechanism for this. A standard model is a research notebook, which is an up to date diary of your project. It should contain dates, names, times, equipment lists, diagrams, raw data, musings, ideas, sketches, casual observations.... It should be decipherable by your colleagues, but is intended to be a working document, not a finished product. It is also increasingly common to have some sort of shared, on-line record keeping space. Whatever record keeping your advisor requires, expect it to be examined from time to time, and to play a role in your grade.

__________________________  __________________________
(signature of student)  (date)
D  Anticipated Course Offerings

Note: This isn't a guarantee. Enrollment, demand swings, and other factors may result in cancellation or addition of courses. Special topics courses may be offered on short notice.

Spring 2016
astr205 Intelligent Life
astr231 Intro to Astrophysics
astr/phys260/260L/460L NASA Mission
astr312 Galactic/Extragalactic
phys150 Sound and Music
phys230 Modern Physics I
phys270 Nanotech in Medicine
phys298: ST- Intro to Air Pollution
phys298/412: ST- Synoptic Meteorology
phys301 Classical Mechanics
phys370 Experimental Physics
phys394 Digital processing - biomedical appls
phys405 Thermal Physics
phys407 Nuclear Physics
phys408 Solid State Physics
phys419 Research Seminar

Fall 2016
phys105 Intro Meteorology
astr/phys260/260L/460L NASA Mission
astr377 Experimental Astronomy
phys230 Modern Physics I
phys272 Meth. of Applied Physics
phys308 Atmospheric Physics
phys340 Photonics
phys370 Experimental Physics
phys396 Biophysical modeling
phys403 Quantum Mechanics I
phys409 Electricity and Magnetism I
phys419 Research Seminar

Spring 2017
astr210/410 Black Holes
astr231 Intro to Astrophysics
astr/phys260/260L/460L NASA Mission
astr306 Planetary Astro
phys203 Physics and Medicine
phys230 Modern Physics I
phys301 Classical Mechanics
phys350 Energy Production
phys370 Experimental Physics
phys405 Thermal Physics
phys415 Fluid Mechanics
phys419 Research Seminar

Fall 2017
astr/phys260/260L/460L NASA Mission
astr311 Stellar Astronomy
astr377 Experimental Astronomy
phys230 Modern Physics I
phys272 Meth. of Applied Physics
phys308 Atmospheric Physics
phys320 Electronics
phys370 Experimental Physics
phys396 Biophysical Modeling
phys403 Quantum Mechanics I
phys409 Electricity and Magnetism I
phys419 Research Seminar

Spring 2018
astr205 Intelligent Life
astr231 Intro to Astrophysics
astr/phys260/260L/460L NASA Mission
astr312 Galactic/Extragalactic
phys230 Modern Physics I
phys270 Nanotech in Medicine
phys301 Classical Mechanics
phys370 Experimental Physics
phys394 Digital processing - biomedical appls
phys404 QM II
phys405 Thermal Physics
phys407 Nuclear Physics
phys408 Solid State Physics
phys419 Research Seminar
E Courses

Credit hours for each are in parentheses. The usual terms the courses are offered are indicated after the course title. This information is not a guarantee that a course will be offered, but is a guide to planning your program.

Legend: F= every fall, S=every spring, oF=odd-year fall, eF=even-year fall, S1=summer session 1, S2=summer session 2, M=maymester or May evening

E.1 Astronomy

astr129 Astronomy I (3) Offered: F, S, S1
An introduction to astronomy. Prerequisites and Corequisites: astr129L. A working knowledge of high school algebra is assumed. Note: No credit for astr129 if you have passed hons390(I), honors astronomy, first semester.

astr129L Astronomy I Laboratory (1) Offered: F, S, S1
Prerequisite or Corequisite: astr129.

astr130 Astronomy II (3) Offered: F, S, S2
A continuation of astr129. Prerequisites or Corequisites: astr130L. Prerequisites: astr129. A working knowledge of high school algebra is assumed. Note: No credit for astr130 if you have passed hons390(II), honors astronomy, second semester

astr130L Astronomy II Lab (1) Offered: F, S, S2
Prerequisite or Corequisite: astr130. Prerequisite: astr129L.

astr205 Intelligent Life in the Universe (3) Offered: eS
A general survey of the topic, stressing the interrelations between the fields of astronomy, physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and philosophy.

astr210 Black Holes in the Universe (3) Offered: oS
Properties of black holes and observations of objects that might harbor them. Topics include Einstein’s special and general relativity, stellar evolution, black hole detection, accretion and outflows, gravitational waves, the Hawking effect, singularities and the possibility of creating mini black holes in the laboratory. (For non-science majors.)

astr231 Introduction to Astrophysics (3) Offered: S
A general survey of fundamental astronomy. The course covers fundamental astronomy concepts, conventions, and terminology. It briefly reviews certain physical concepts, such as gravity and radiative processes, and applies them in an astrophysical context. It then introduces the basic principles required for more advanced courses: planetary, stellar, and galactic/extragalactic astrophysics. Prerequisites: phys112 or hons158

astr260 NASA Space Mission Design (2) Offered: F, S
Students work on teams with engineering students at another university to design unmanned NASA satellite missions. Student teams interactively participate through presentations, assigned readings, on-line discussions, classroom exercises and dynamic activities, and compete for best mission with final projects being evaluated by a panel of NASA experts. Prerequisites: astr130 or astr206 or hons160 or geol206 or phys102 or phys112 or hons158 or permission of instructor. Corequisites: astr260L or astr460L.

astr260L NASA Space Mission Design Lab (1) Offered: F, S
Lab students work on teams with engineering students at another university to design unmanned NASA satellite missions. Student teams interactively participate through presentations, assigned readings, on-line discussions, classroom exercises and dynamic activities, and compete for best mission with final projects being evaluated by a panel of NASA experts. Corequisites: astr260

astr306 Planetary Astronomy (3) Offered: oS
The nature and origin, evolution, and current state of the solar system and extrasolar systems are reviewed. Celestial mechanics, planetary interiors, atmospheres and solar system debris are covered in depth. Prerequisite: astr231

astr311 Stellar Astronomy and Astrophysics (3) Offered: oF
The basic concepts of stars and stellar systems are explored. Topics covered include: stellar interiors, stellar atmospheres, stellar spectra, star formation, stellar evolution, stellar remnants, variable stars, and binary stars. Lectures three hours per week. Prerequisites: astr231 and math221

astr312 Galactic and Extragalactic Astronomy (3) Offered: eS
Structure, kinematics, and dynamics of galaxies including the Milky Way. Galactic evolution, active galaxies and quasars, accretion disks, and cosmology. Prerequisites: astr231 and math221.

astr377 Experimental Astronomy (4) Offered: F
A course designed to emphasize the concepts, principles, and experimental techniques of modern observational astronomy and astrophysics. Topics include astrometry, multi-wavelength instrumentation and imaging, and data analysis techniques. Hands-on projects plus lecture. Observatory work will be required. Scientific report writing will also be required. Prerequisite: astr231

astr410 Black Holes (1) Offered: oS
An augmentation of astr210 requiring calculus and computation. Research topics include using relativity (to explain quasar gravitational lensing, effects of general relativity on GPS satellites, and frame dragging with Gravity Probe B), calculating accretion disk emission spectra, and constraining environments and properties of black holes inhabiting active galactic nuclei. Prerequisite: phys112 or permission of instructor. Corequisite: astr210

astr413 Astrophysics (3)
Covers the application of physics to problems in stel-
lar atmospheres and interiors, the interstellar medium and galactic dynamics. Lectures, three hours per week. Prerequisites: phys301, math323, or permission of the instructor.

**astr460L: NASA Space Mission Design Leadership Lab**

(1) Offered: F, S

Lab students lead local teams and work with engineering students at another university to design unmanned NASA satellite missions. Student teams interactively participate through presentations, assigned readings, on-line discussions, classroom exercises and dynamic activities, and compete for best mission with final projects being evaluated by a panel of NASA experts. Prerequisites: Permission of instructors. Corequisites: astr260

### E.2 Physics

**phys101 Introductory Physics**

(3) Offered: F, S, S1

A general physics course intended for those students who plan to take only one physics sequence. Subjects covered are: mechanics (vectors, linear and rotational motion, equilibrium, and gravitational fields); heat (mechanical and thermal properties of solids, liquids, and gases); and wave motion. Upon completion of 101 with a grade of B or better and successful completion of math120 a student may transfer to phys112. Lectures, three hours per week. Prerequisites and Corequisites: Physics 101L is a corequisite or prerequisite. Note: A working knowledge of algebra and simple trigonometry is assumed. phys101 is not open to students who have passed phys111 or hons157.

**phys101L Introductory Physics Laboratory**

(1) Offered: F, S, S1

Prerequisite and Corequisite: Physics 101 is a corequisite or prerequisite for Physics 101L.

**phys102 Introductory Physics**

(3) Offered: F, S, S2

A continuation of phys101. Subjects covered are: electricity (electric fields, AC and DC circuits); magnetism; light (geometric and physical optics, spectra); and modern physics (relativity and nuclear physics). Lectures three hours per week; laboratory three hours per week. Prerequisite: Phys111 or permission of instructor.

**phys102L Introductory Physics Laboratory**

(1) Offered: F, S, S2

Prerequisites and Corequisites: Physics 102 is a corequisite or prerequisite for Physics 102L.

**phys105 Introduction to Meteorology**

(3) Offered: F

Survey of the most important topics in meteorology. No credit for students who have taken Physics 308. A working knowledge of high school algebra is assumed. Note: A student may not receive credit for both phys105 and phys456.

**phys110 Conceptual Physics**

(Not expected to be offered in the near future)

**phys111 General Physics I**

(3) Offered: F, S, S1

Introduction to principles of physics primarily for scientists and engineers. Subjects covered are mechanics (vectors, linear and rotational motion, equilibrium and gravitational fields); heat (mechanical and thermal properties of solids, liquids and gases); and wave motion. Lecture three hours per week; laboratory three hours per week. Prerequisite or corequisite: Mathematics 120 or equivalent or permission of instructor.

**phys111L General Physics Laboratory**

(1) Offered: F, S, S1

Corequisite: Phys111 or permission of instructor.

**phys112 General Physics II**

(3) Offered: F, S, S2

A continuation of phys111. Subjects covered are: electricity (electric fields, AC and DC circuits); magnetism; light (geometric and physical optics, spectra); and modern physics (relativity and nuclear physics). Lectures three hours per week; laboratory three hours per week. Prerequisite: Physics 111 or hons 157. Prerequisite or corequisite: math220 or equivalent or permission of instructor. Note: upon completion of phys101 with a grade of B or better and successful completion of math120 a student may transfer to phys112.

**phys112L General Physics Laboratory**

(1) Offered: F, S, S1

Corequisite: Physics 112 or permission of instructor.

**phys150 Physics of Sound and Music**

(3) Offered: F, S

An investigation of mechanical and electronic generation of sound; propagation of sound; perception of sound and music; the acoustics of vocal and instrumental music; musical elements such as pitch, loudness, and timbre; and musical constructs such as scales, temperament and harmony. Lectures three hours per week. A working knowledge of high school algebra is assumed.

**phys203 Physics and Medicine**

(3) Offered: S

The application of physics to a variety of medical issues. Useful for students who intend to become medical professionals and students interested in the applications of physics to medicine. Prerequisites: Phys102 or Phys112 or Hons158.

**phys230 Intro to Modern Physics I**

(3) Offered: F, S

Introduction to relativity, atomic theory, x-rays, wave-particle duality, and elements of quantum mechanics. Prerequisite: Physics 112 or hons158. Prerequisite or corequisite: math 221, or permission of the instructor.

**phys260, NASA Space Mission Design**

(2) Offered: See astr260.

**phys260L, NASA Space Mission Design Lab**


**phys270 Nanotechnology in Medicine**

(3) Offered: S

An introductory level interdisciplinary course covering nanotechnology and its use in medicine. Students will
learn the basic physics behind smart nanobiomaterials, nanobiosensors, and DNA motifs. They will also learn nanotechnology in cancer treatment and drug delivery, medical imaging using quantum dots, nanofabrication, characterization tools used in nanotechnology, and nanotoxicology. Prerequisites or Corequisites: Phys102 or phys112 or hons158 or permission of the instructor.

**phys272 Methods of Applied Physics** (3) Offered: F
This course is designed to develop skills in applying mathematical tools and concepts developed formally in the mathematics curriculum for use in the undergraduate physics curriculum. The focus will be on the practical problem solving process rather than the abstract or theoretical nature of techniques. Prerequisite: Math221 and (phys112 or hons158).

**phys298 Special Topics** (1-3)
An examination of an area of physics in which a regular course is not offered. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor and chair.

**phys301 Classical Mechanics I** (3) Offered: S
Newtonian dynamics of particles and rigid bodies, relativistic mechanics, Lagrangian and Hamiltonian mechanics, and waves. Lectures, three hours per week. Prerequisites: (phys112 or hons158), and math 323, or permission of the instructor.

**phys302 Classical Mechanics II** (3)
Prerequisite: Physics 301.

**phys308 Atmospheric Physics** (3) Offered: eF
An introduction to the study of the Earth's atmosphere. Topics covered include atmospheric thermodynamics, synoptic meteorology, violent storms, radiative transfer, basic modeling, ozone depletion, acid rain, and global warming. Lectures, three hours per week. Prerequisites: Physics 112 or hons158 or permission of the instructor.

**phys320 Introductory Electronics** (4) Offered: Of
Lectures, three hours per week; laboratory, three hours per week. Prerequisite: (phys102 and math120) or phys112 or phys158 or permission of the instructor.

**phys331 Intro to Modern Physics II** (3) Offered: eS
Prerequisite: Physics 230 or permission

**phys340 Photonics** (4) Offered: eF
An intermediate lecture and lab-based course in modern optics. Topics covered include: the wave equation, interference, diffraction, polarization, holography, spectroscopy, lasers, second harmonic and terahertz generation, optical communication, optical materials, and bio-photonics. Lectures three hours per week; laboratory three hours per week. Prerequisite: phys112 or hons158 or permission of the instructor.

**phys350 Energy Production** (4) Offered: oS
The science and technology of solar, nuclear, fuel cell, geothermal, wind, hybrid, and other energy systems. A study of the nature of energy and scientific issues relating to its production, storage, distribution, and use from a physics perspective. Lectures three hours per week. Laboratory three hours per week. Prerequisite: chem111 + (phys112 or hons158 or (phys102+math120))

**phys370 Experimental Physics** (4) Offered: F, S
An opportunity for students to develop experimental, analytical, and research techniques through lecture and extensive laboratory experiences. Scientific report writing will be stressed. Prerequisite: phys230 or permission of the instructor.

**phys381 Internship** (1-3)
A student will gain professional experience as an intern at a private firm or governmental agency. A written proposal must be approved by the Department Internship Coordinator prior to enrolling in the course. At least 40 hours of work is required for each 1 credit awarded for the course. Prerequisites: phys370 or permission of the Coordinator

**phys390 Research** (1-3)
Literature and/or laboratory investigations of specific problems in physics or astronomy. The topic of the investigations will be determined by the interests of the student in consultation with the department faculty. Open to exceptional students and particularly suited to those intending to continue toward a graduate degree. Prerequisite: Permission.

**phys394 Digital Signal and Image Processing with Biomedical Applications** (3) Offered: eS
A systematic presentation of mathematical aspects and the corresponding computational techniques and tools currently used in digital signal and image processing. The topics include signal sampling, temporal and frequency domain representations, filtering, denoising, enhancing, and visualization of signals with emphasis on biomedical data. Prerequisites: phys112 and phys112L or hons158 and hons158L Corequisite: phys394L.

**phys394L Digital Signal and Image Processing with Biomedical Applications Laboratory** (1) Lab to accompany phys394. Corequisite: phys394

**phys396 Biophysical Modeling of Excitable Cells** (3) Offered: F
An introduction to the concepts and methods of computer modeling of excitable cells. Topics include
basic electrophysiology of excitable cells, biophysics of ion conduction, mathematical modeling of activation/inactivation mechanisms using experimental data, and computer simulations. Prerequisites: (biol112 or hons152 and phys112 or hons158) or (biol211 and biol305 and phys102), or permission of the instructor.

phys397 Zero Credit Research (0)
A student works under faculty supervision to learn a research method, to explore possible research topics or to continue an ongoing study. The faculty member helps the student to determine the course goals and objectives and supervises the execution of project. The student will provide a written report to the faculty at the end of the semester. Student will receive a "P" (pass) or "NP" (Not Pass) grade for the course. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

phys399 Tutorial (3)
Individual instruction given by a tutor in regularly scheduled meetings (usually once a week). Prerequisite: Junior standing, plus permission of the tutor and the department chair.

phys403 Intro Quantum Mechanics I (3) Offered: F
Wave-particle duality; the wave function; general principles of quantum mechanics; systems in one, two and three dimensions; electron spin; perturbation theory; electro-magnetic radiation; systems containing identical particles; and applications. Lectures, three hours per week. Prerequisite: phys230 and math323 or permission of the instructor.

phys404 Intro Quantum Mechanics II (3) Offered: F
Prerequisite: phys403.

phys405 Thermal Physics (3) Offered: S
An introduction to quantum statistical mechanics, thermodynamic functions, and the laws of thermodynamics. There is an emphasis on the application of the fundamental concepts to astrophysics, electromagnetic radiation, low-temperature physics, and solid-state physics. Prerequisites: phys230 and math323, or permission of the instructor.

phys407 Nuclear Physics (3) Offered: eS
An introduction to the theory of the nucleus, including constituents of the nucleus; nuclear forces and structure; natural and induced radioactivity; properties of alpha, beta and gamma radiation; particle accelerators; and fission, fusion and nuclear reactors. Lectures three hours per week. Prerequisite: phys230 or permission of the instructor.

phys408 Solid State Physics (3) Offered: eS
A survey of the fundamental principles determining the macroscopic properties of solids. The lattice system and the electron system are investigated as a basis for understanding dielectric, magnetic, optical, semiconductive and superconductive behavior in solids. Lectures three hours per week. Prerequisite or corequisite: Physics 230 and (math323 or phys272) or permission of the instructor.

phys409 Electricity and Magnetism I (3) Offered: F
An intermediate course in electricity and magnetism. Subjects to be covered will include electric fields, magnetic fields, electric current, Maxwell’s equations, conductors, dielectrics and magnetic materials. Lectures three hours per week. Prerequisites: phys112 or hons158, and math323 or permission of the instructor.

phys410 Electricity and Magnetism II (3)
Prerequisite: Physics 409.

phys412 Special Topics (1-3)
An examination of an area in physics in which a regular course is not offered. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

phys415 Fluid Mechanics (3) Offered: oS
An introduction to fluid mechanics that develops physical concepts and formulates basic conservation laws. Topics include fluid statics, kinematics, stresses in fluids, flow of real (viscous) fluids and compressible flow. Lectures three hours per week. Prerequisites: math323 and phys301 or permission of the instructor.

phys419 Research Seminar (1) Offered: F, S
This course is intended to prepare the student for Phys 420. Prerequisite or corequisite: phys370 or astr377 or permission of the instructor.

phys420 Senior Research (3)
Conducting, writing and presenting the results of the research project proposed in Phys 419. The presentation must be at a scientific forum approved by the research advisor. Prerequisites: Phys 419 or permission. No credit for both phys420 and phys499.

phys456 Air Pollution Meteorology (4)
Satellite meteorology is the measurement of the weather by sensors aboard satellites. Prerequisites: phys308; or phys456; or both phys105 and one of phys112, or phys102 and math120, or hons158; or permission of the instructor.

phys457 Satellite Meteorology (3)
Satellite meteorology is the measurement of the weather by sensors aboard satellites. Prerequisites: phys308; or phys456; or both phys105 and one of phys112, or phys102 and math120, or hons158; or permission of the instructor.

phys458 Climate Change (3)
Being phased out and not expected to be offered again.

phys460L: NASA Space Mission Design Leadership Lab (1)
See astr460L.

phys499 Bachelor's Essay (6)
Normally taken by students in the Honors Program instead of phys420. A project proposal must be submitted in writing and approved by the department prior to registration for the course. Prerequisites: phys419 or permission of the chair. No credit for both phys420 and phys499.
F  Letters of Recommendation

At some time you will need letters of recommendation (LoR), to apply for graduate or professional schools, jobs, research positions, or scholarships. Here are some recommendations relating to these letters.

Find recommenders who can make your best case. Ask yourself what is your relationship with the recommender, how long, how relevant to the purpose of this LoR, how positively can they speak on your behalf? Contact them well before you need the recommendation. Then give them supporting materials to make their job of writing the LoR easy.

Generic checklist for LoRs—

1. Identify prospective recommenders.

2. Talk with a Prospective Recommender. Decide that they are a good bet.

3. In a timely manner present them with:
   (a) A list of schools with deadlines
   (b) An unofficial transcript. It would generally be expected that your recommender have access to your records.
   (c) Supporting material about you (i.e. a resumé)
      i. What are your goals?
      ii. Courses you had with recommender
      iii. GRE scores
      iv. Relevant skills
      v. Research experience, Special projects, REU, teaching experience …
   (d) For things to be mailed, faculty will generally use official CofC envelopes. If you need to pre-address them, you may get them from Ms. Meredith in the Department office. You do not need to put stamps on them.

4. Follow-up until the recommender has submitted the recommendation, but don’t pester.

5. Follow-up with the recipient. Your application package can be held up because a component gets lost or misfiled at the receiving end. Verify that your application package is complete far enough ahead of the deadline to address any problems.
G Internships

The Department is pleased to offer you the opportunity to pursue an internship in which you will gain professional experience as an intern at a private firm or government agency. The primary motivation is to offer a career-relevant experience for students entering the job market with a bachelor's degree.

The student is the primary motivator of the internship, and the required paperwork. In consultation with the department Internship Coordinator (Dr. NK), and the on-site supervisor, the student shall draft a mutually agreeable Learning Contract (LC). An internship is a professional position. It is not menial work, nor is it a fill-in or temporary position at the workplace.

G.1 Student Responsibilities

1. Obtain approval from department Internship Coordinator to pursue
2. Complete Learning Contract (suggestions below)
3. Perform to the best of your ability those tasks assigned by your supervisor which are related to your learning objectives and to the responsibilities of the position
4. Follow all the rules, regulations, and normal requirements of the organization
5. Complete the academic requirements of the LC under the guidance of the Internship Coordinator
6. Notify the department Internship Coordinator of any changes needed to the agreement or of any problem during the on-the-job experience

G.2 Faculty Internship Coordinator Responsibilities

1. Work with the student to formulate goals and learning objectives
2. Keep in contact with the student
3. Assess the intern's learning based upon the site supervisor's evaluation and the departmental requirements: maintain hours on the job, submission of LC, journal, meeting with advisor, final paper or other visible product, and public oral presentation
4. Site visit at least once (for local internships), to discuss the intern's performance and the applicability of theory to the field experience
5. Get a mid-term evaluation from the supervisor

G.3 Paid vs. Unpaid

The US Department of Labor specifies that an internship can legally be unpaid ONLY if:

1. The intern is provided training similar to that which would be provided at a vocational school (the student is under continued and direct supervision);
2. The training is for the benefit of the student, not to meet the labor needs of the business;
3. The student does not displace a regular employee and an employee has not been relieved of assigned duties;
4. The employer provides the training and derives no immediate advantage from the intern's activities, and on occasion his/her operations may actually be impeded;
5. The student is not necessarily entitled to a job at the conclusion of the internship; and
6. The employer and student agree and understand that no wages will be paid to the student.

G.4 Site Supervisor Responsibilities

1. Discuss the responsibilities and scope of the internship with the student
2. Work with the student to develop goals and learning objectives
3. Provide ongoing supervision and feedback to the student
4. Be available to talk with and meet the Faculty Internship Advisor during a site visit
5. Complete a candid evaluation of the intern's performance for the Faculty Advisor

G.5 The Learning Contract

Things to address in the learning contract:

- Employer
- Company
- Address
- Site Supervisor Name and Contact information
- Internship compensation: hourly or stipend total
- Work days/hours
• Position Description: This is a description in as much detail as possible, of the intern's role and responsibilities. List duties, meetings, activities, project deadlines, etc.

• Supervision and Resources: Describe the supervision (and time frame) to be provided to the intern by the site supervisor. For example, an on-site supervisor may have daily meetings with the intern to discuss the progress and challenges. Also indicate what resources will be available to assist the intern in accomplishing their duties. (desk, computer, workspace…)

• Assessment and Evaluation: In addition to informal and regular assessment and evaluation provided by the on-site supervisor, the supervisor will complete a mid-term and final evaluation. The evaluations should be based on the goals and tasks indicated in the job description and learning objectives. These evaluations will be shared with the intern, the Department Internship Advisor, and College Internship staff.

• Goals in the Agreement: Professional, Academic, and Personal goals should all be specific, measurable, attainable (within the internship timeframe), and have a timeline.

The Learning Contract should be structured so that it is clear what each objective is, how it will be accomplished and evaluated, and what closing activities are required. Below are some ideas that may be useful in constructing a Learning Contract. Goals may be in any or all of the following areas: academic learning, career exploration, and skill development.

Learning Objectives

1. Are you looking to improve or develop skills, expand knowledge of a specific field, apply or test a particular body of knowledge?

2. Are you interested in testing a career interest and your own suitability for that career

3. Are you interested in learning how a particular company, organization, or industry works?

Learning Tasks and Strategies

1. Describe the specific process for achieving your goals. You can list more than one strategy to meet each objective

2. Will you undergo training? How many hours?

3. Will you be working on a specific project?

4. Will you prepare by reading or preliminary problem solving, or learning skills?

5. Will you attend any related conferences or meetings?

6. Will people at work observe you and give you feedback?

Evaluation and Closing Activities

1. Describe how your progress will be measured

2. How will you know, and show others, that you have achieved your learning objectives?

3. Will you keep a journal?

4. Will you compile records of your activities? (e.g. reports, notes, staff meeting records…)

5. Describe your final project/activity and components for a final grade.

6. Will you summarize your experience into a final reflective paper?

7. Will you make a formal oral presentation to the department?

8. Will you organize data into a research project/paper?