Department of Physics

(College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences)

www.physics.uni.edu

The Department of Physics offers the following undergraduate programs. Specific requirements for these programs are listed within this Department of Physics section in the following order:

Undergraduate Major (B.S.)

• Physics (p. 1)

Undergraduate Major (B.A.)

• Physics (p. 1)
• Physics-Teaching (p. 2)

Minors

• Data Science (p. 3) (also listed in Department of Computer Science and Department of Mathematics)
• Materials Science and Technology (p. 3) (also listed in Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Department of Applied Engineering & Technical Management)
• Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (p. 4)
• Physics (p. 4)

Program Certificate

• Physics Teaching (p. 4)

The Department of Physics offers major programs in two baccalaureate areas: the Bachelor of Science and the Bachelor of Arts. The B.S. Physics major is recommended for students who wish to prepare for graduate study in physics, engineering, or other sciences such as geophysics, astronomy, biophysics, or medical physics. The B.A. Physics major is ideal for a student with interdisciplinary interests who wishes to combine physics with courses from another area. The B.A. Physics-Teaching program provides students with the best qualification to teach physics in high school.

The dual-degree program in physics and engineering in cooperation with Iowa State University (ISU) is also offered. The first three years of coursework in liberal arts and physics B.S. are completed at UNI. During the fourth and fifth years, engineering courses are completed at ISU. When finished, a student will have a bachelor’s degree in Physics from UNI and bachelor’s degree in Engineering from ISU.

Bachelor of Science Degree Program

Emphasis-B.S. Physics Major Honors Research

Students who complete a sustained research project in physics may be invited to do Honors Research. Students must first complete 4 credit hours of PHYSICS 3000 Undergraduate Research in Physics and then 1 credit hour of PHYSICS 4990 Senior Thesis.

Physics Major

The B.S. Physics major requires a minimum of 126 total hours to graduate. This total includes UNIFI/General Education requirements and the following specified major requirements, plus electives to complete the minimum of 126 hours.

Note: To graduate with a B.S. degree in Physics, a student must earn an overall grade point average of at least 2.50 in all courses applied toward the major.

Required

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mathematics:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1420 Calculus I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1421 Calculus II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 2422 Calculus III</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physics:</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 1100 First-Year Projects in Physics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 1701 Physics I for Science and Engineering</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 1702 Physics II for Science and Engineering</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 2300 Physics III: Theory and Simulation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 2700 Mathematical Methods of Physics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 3000 Undergraduate Research in Physics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHYSICS 3500 Internship in Applied Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 3700 Physics Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4100/5100 Modern Physics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4110/5110 Modern Physics Laboratory</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4300/5300 Introduction to Electronics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4600/5600 Classical Mechanics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4700/5700 Electrodynamics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4860/5860 Computational Physics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4900/5900 Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physics, Natural Science, or Math Electives</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 59

* Electives must be mathematics or science courses that count toward a major of the department offering the course. Electives should be selected with the advice of an academic adviser in Physics.

@ This course meets the Bachelor of Science degree undergraduate research requirement.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Program

Physics Major

The B.A. Physics Major is suitable for students who are interested in physics but are looking for a more interdisciplinary experience...
than the B.S. Physics Major. Potential careers include, for example, computer science, data science, medicine, business, or law. The B.A. Physics Major requires a minimum of 120 total hours for graduation. This includes the major requirements and electives specified below, as well as UNIFI/General Education requirements.

The B.A. Physics major has two emphases: Custom Emphasis and Data Science Emphasis. Students should choose one emphasis. Each emphasis requires completion of a common physics core, a common mathematics core and electives. The Data Science Emphasis has an additional core of data science-related courses and a required project.

**Custom Emphasis**

The Custom Emphasis is designed to combine a core understanding of physics with additional course work from other disciplines. The flexibility of this major makes it ideal for students interested in dual majors or one or more minors. The rigor of the program allows students to better prepare themselves for careers in any field, especially those related to science or technology. Students work with an advisor to create an individualized emphasis to best meet their needs.

**Required Physics Core:**

- PHYSICS 1100: First-Year Projects in Physics 1
- PHYSICS 1701: Physics I for Science and Engineering 4
- PHYSICS 1702: Physics II for Science and Engineering 4
- PHYSICS 2300: Physics III: Theory and Simulation 3
- PHYSICS 4100/5100: Modern Physics 4
- PHYSICS 4110/5110: Modern Physics Laboratory 2

**Required Mathematics Core:**

- MATH 1420: Calculus I 4
- MATH 1421: Calculus II 4

**Electives:**

- Physics:
  - 3000-level and above 7
  - No more than 2 hours of PHYSICS 3000 Undergraduate Research

**Natural Sciences or Other Disciplines**

- Elective courses must count toward a major in the department that offers the course.
- Mathematics courses must be higher level than MATH 1421.

**Total Hours** 42

**Data Science Emphasis**

The Data Science Emphasis integrates significant course work in physics, statistics and business analytics with electives from other areas such as Geographic Information Systems and computer programming. The goal is for students to develop broad-based skills in the analysis of data and the extraction of gainful information about a variety of systems.

**Required Physics Core**

- PHYSICS 1100: First-Year Projects in Physics 1
- PHYSICS 1701: Physics I for Science and Engineering 4
- PHYSICS 1702: Physics II for Science and Engineering 4
- PHYSICS 2300: Physics III: Theory and Simulation 3
- PHYSICS 4100/5100: Modern Physics 4
- PHYSICS 4110/5110: Modern Physics Laboratory 2

**Required Mathematics Core**

- MATH 1420: Calculus I 4
- MATH 1421: Calculus II 4

**Required Data Science Core**

- STAT 1772: Introduction to Statistical Methods 3
- STAT 4772/5772: Statistical Computing I 3
- ECON 1011: Statistics for Business Analytics 3
- ECON 2090: Decision Analytics 3

**Required Data Science Project**

- PHYSICS 3000: Undergraduate Research in Physics 1
  or PHYSICS 3500: Internship in Applied Physics

**Electives** 3-4

Elective requirements should be chosen from the following: (Other choices will need departmental approval)

- CS 1510: Introduction to Computing
- CS 1520: Data Structures
- GEOG 2410: Geographic Information Systems I
- GEOG 3410: Geographic Information Systems II
- ACT SCI 3780/5780: Mathematics of Finance
- STAT 3752/5752: Introduction to Probability
- STAT 3771/5771: Applied Statistical Methods for Research
- STAT 3775/5775: Introduction to Mathematical Statistics *

**Total Hours** 42-43

* STAT 3775/5775 has the following: MATH 3752/5752 is a prerequisite; MATH 2422 is a pre-or-co-requisite.

**Emphasis-B.A. Physics Major-Teaching Honors Research**

Students who complete a sustained research project in physics education may be invited to do Honors Research. Students must first complete 4 credit hours of PHYSICS 3000 Undergraduate Research in Physics and then 1 credit hour of PHYSICS 4990 Senior Thesis.

**Physics Major-Teaching**

The B.A. Physics major in teaching requires a minimum of 120 total hours to graduate. This total includes UNIFI/General Education requirements, the Professional Education Requirements, and the
following specified major requirements, plus electives to complete the minimum of 120 hours.

This major leads to endorsement #156: 5-12 Physics.

Required
Mathematics:
MATH 1420  Calculus I  4
MATH 1421  Calculus II  4

Science and Science Education:
SCI ED 3300/5300  Orientation to Science Teaching  4
SCI ED 4800/5800  Methods for Teaching Secondary Science or MTSS  3

Teaching:
TEACHING 3129  Secondary and Special-Area Classroom Management  1

Physics:
PHYSICS 1100  First-Year Projects in Physics  1
PHYSICS 1701  Physics I for Science and Engineering  4
PHYSICS 1702  Physics II for Science and Engineering  4
PHYSICS 2300  Physics III: Theory and Simulation  3
PHYSICS 4080/5080  Resources for Teaching Physics  2
PHYSICS 4100/5100  Modern Physics  4
PHYSICS 4110/5110  Modern Physics Laboratory  2

Electives
Physics: all 3000+ level courses  6
Mathematics or non-physics science courses from the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences  4

Total Hours  46

*  Excluding all 820:xxx and mathematics below MATH 1420.

It is recommended that sufficient work including current curricula should be taken for licensure approval in a second area. Common teaching combinations are physics-chemistry or physics-mathematics.

Completion of this major will satisfy the requirements of the Iowa Department of Education for licensure.

Minors

Data Science Minor
The Data Science minor is an interdisciplinary program that integrates computer programming, machine learning, statistics, predictive modeling and visualization to provide students with broad based skills for extracting gainful information from data that originate from a variety of sources. A final project (ideally with corporate or non-profit partnerships) will ensure that students employ their skills to solve a real-world problem.

Statistics:
STAT 1772  Introduction to Statistical Methods  3

STAT 4784/5784  Introduction to Machine Learning  3

Computer Science:
CS 1510  Introduction to Computing  4
CS 2150  Computing for Data Science  3

or

CS 1520  Data Structures  3
& CS 1800  and Discrete Structures  4
CS 3140/5140  Database Systems  3

Physics:
PHYSICS 4160/5160  Data Visualization, Modeling and Simulation  3

Required Data Science Project
CS 4800  Undergraduate Research in Computer Science  2

or

MATH 4990  Undergraduate Research in Mathematics  3
or

PHYSICS 3000  Undergraduate Research in Physics  3

Total Hours  21-26

Materials Science and Technology Minor
This is an interdisciplinary minor that is jointly offered by the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Physics, and Applied Engineering & Technical Management.

Materials science and the use of materials in technology requires the use of concepts from multiple disciplines. This interdisciplinary minor gives students the broad foundation they need to learn about the science of materials and an introduction to how these scientific principles are used in the development and application of materials in new technology. This minor is complementary preparation to a major in Chemistry and Biochemistry, Physics or Manufacturing Engineering Technology for students who are interested in working in industry or going on to advanced study in materials science.

Required:
Choose one of the following three options:  5-8

Option 1 Chemistry (8 hours)
CHEM 1110  General Chemistry I
CHEM 1120  General Chemistry II

OR

Option 2 Chemistry (5 hours)
CHEM 1130  General Chemistry I-II

OR

Option 3 Chemistry/Technology (7 hours)
CHEM 1020  Chemical Technology
TECH 3127  Transport Phenomena for Technologists

Additional requirements (all three options)
Choose one of the following sets of Physics courses:  8

PHYSICS 1511  General Physics I
& PHYSICS 1512  and General Physics II

OR

PHYSICS 1701  Physics I for Science and Engineering
& PHYSICS 1702  and Physics II for Science and Engineering

3
## Department of Physics

### Additional required (all three options)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 4200/5200</td>
<td>Nanoscience *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHYSICS 4200/5200</td>
<td>Nanoscience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TECH 2072</td>
<td>Engineering Materials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Electives (all three options) - choose one of the following:

**Note:** in order to earn the Materials Science and Technology minor, the elective course students take for the minor cannot be a required course for their primary major.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 2110</td>
<td>Descriptive Inorganic Chemistry *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 2320</td>
<td>Chemical Analysis #</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 4210/5210</td>
<td>Nanotechnology *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHYSICS 4210/5210</td>
<td>Nanotechnology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4750/5750</td>
<td>Physics of Modern Materials #</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TECH 3132/5132</td>
<td>Metallurgy and Phase Transformation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours:** 22-26

* There are additional prerequisite courses that must be taken along with the required courses in some options – choose the option that aligns with the courses for your major.

Prerequisites for TECH 3127: TECH 1024; MATH 1150 or MATH 1420.
Prerequisite or corequisites for PHYSICS 1701: MATH 1420.
Prerequisite or corequisites for PHYSICS 1702: MATH 1421.

* Students who have declared a Materials Science and Technology Minor may take these courses after completing CHEM 1020 Chemical Technology and TECH 3127 Transport Phenomena for Technologists in place of the usual CHEM 1120 General Chemistry II prerequisite.

& These courses are taken by students in the Manufacturing Engineering Technology major.

# Prerequisite for CHEM 2320: CHEM 1120 or CHEM 1130.
Prerequisite for PHYSICS 4750/5750: PHYSICS 4100/5100 and PHYSICS 4110/5110.

### Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Minor

**Required**

Chemistry and Biochemistry: 5-8

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1110</td>
<td>General Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; CHEM 1120</td>
<td>and General Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1130</td>
<td>General Chemistry I-II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Physics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 1511</td>
<td>General Physics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHYSICS 1701</td>
<td>Physics I for Science and Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 1512</td>
<td>General Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHYSICS 1702</td>
<td>Physics II for Science and Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4080/5080</td>
<td>Resources for Teaching Physics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Science Education:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCI ED 3300/5300</td>
<td>Orientation to Science Teaching</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives chosen from the following: 3-5

**Total Hours:** 19-22

### Physics Minor

**Required**

Physics:

Select one of the following: 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 1511 &amp; PHYSICS 1512</td>
<td>General Physics I and General Physics II (required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 1701 &amp; PHYSICS 1702</td>
<td>Physics I for Science and Engineering and Physics II for Science and Engineering (required)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives:** 12

3000-level electives in Physics, with no more than 3 hours earned in the following:

- PHYSICS 3000 | Undergraduate Research in Physics (and/or) |
- PHYSICS 4450/5450 | Laboratory Projects |

**Total Hours:** 20

* See course descriptions to reference 4-digit numbers associated with these 3000-level courses.

### Program Certificate

The University of Northern Iowa makes available, in addition to traditional programs, the opportunity for students to earn program certificates. Program certificates provide an alternative to programs leading to a degree, a major, or a minor; they certify that an individual has completed a program approved by the university. For information on the following certificates, contact the Department of Physics or the Office of the Registrar, which serves as the centralized registry.

### Physics Teaching Certificate

Completion of the certificate for the majors mentioned in the electives section below meets the requirements of endorsement #156: 5-12 Physics.

**Required**

Physics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 1511</td>
<td>General Physics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHYSICS 1701</td>
<td>Physics I for Science and Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 1512</td>
<td>General Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHYSICS 1702</td>
<td>Physics II for Science and Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4080/5080</td>
<td>Resources for Teaching Physics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Science Education:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCI ED 3300/5300</td>
<td>Orientation to Science Teaching</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives chosen from the following: 3-5

**Total Hours:** 20

* See course descriptions to reference 4-digit numbers associated with these 3000-level courses.
Elective hours vary by major program. Mathematics Teaching majors and Chemistry Teaching majors must select three hours from the following; other secondary science teaching majors including Comprehensive Secondary Science Teaching, Middle Level Science Teaching Dual, Biology Teaching, and Earth Science Teaching must select five hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 1100</td>
<td>First-Year Projects in Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 2300</td>
<td>Physics III: Theory and Simulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 3000</td>
<td>Undergraduate Research in Physics*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS/TECH TEE 3050</td>
<td>Robotics and Sensors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4050/5050</td>
<td>Optical Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4100/5100</td>
<td>Modern Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4110/5110</td>
<td>Modern Physics Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4200/5200</td>
<td>Nanoscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4210/5210</td>
<td>Nanotechnology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4290/5290</td>
<td>Project Lead The Way: Digital Electronics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 4300/5300</td>
<td>Introduction to Electronics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 17-19

* A maximum of 2 hours are allowed.