Physics BS, Engineering Physics Emphasis

Physicists strive to understand the fundamental nature of the forces and particles, and the resultant states of matter, that make up the physical world. Our Engineering Physics degree provides a grounding in this approach with an added emphasis on practical applications. The Department of Physics and Astronomy at UMSL provides a broad-based education in the fundamental concepts of engineering physics, with the experimental and theoretical skills essential to practicing scientists. Undergraduate education in physics prepares students for both graduate study and a wide variety of professional careers in fields such applied physics and engineering.

General Education Requirements

Majors must complete the university and college general education requirements (http://bulletin.umsl.edu/generaleducationrequirements/). Any of the following courses may be used to satisfy the physical science requirement:

ASTRON 1001 Cosmic Evolution Introductory Astronomy 3
ASTRON 1011 Planets and Life in the Universe 3
ASTRON 1012 The Violent Universe and the New Astronomy 3
ASTRON 1050 Introduction to Astronomy I (MOTR ASTR 100) 3
ASTRON 1051 Introduction to Astronomy II 3
ATM SCI 1001 Elementary Meteorology 3
GEOL 1001 General Geology 3
GEOL 1002 Historical Geology 3
PHYSICS 1001 How Things Work (MOTR PHYS 100) 3
PHYSICS 1011 Basic Physics I 3
PHYSICS 1011L Basic Physics I Laboratory 1
PHYSICS 1012 Basic Physics II 3
PHYSICS 1012L Basic Physics II Laboratory 1
PHYSICS 2111 Physics: Mechanics and Heat 4
PHYSICS 2112 Physics: Electricity, Magnetism, and Optics 4

Declaring the Physics Major

Students seeking to major in physics are first designated as ‘pre-physics majors’ until they have completed both PHYSICS 2111 and PHYSICS 2112 or equivalent courses. Upon successful completion of PHYSICS 2111 and PHYSICS 2112 with grades of C- or better, students will be allowed to declare physics as their major. Each of these courses must be completed successfully within two attempts.

Degree Requirements

All physics majors in all programs must complete the physics core curriculum with the exception that majors pursuing the Physics Education option are not required to take PHYSICS 1099 and CMP SCI 1250. In addition to the core courses, each individual program has its own specific requirements. Required Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, and

Core Curriculum

The following physics courses are required:

PHYSICS 1099 Windows on Physics 23
PHYSICS 2111 Physics: Mechanics and Heat
PHYSICS 2111L Mechanics and Heat Laboratory
PHYSICS 2112 Physics: Electricity, Magnetism, and Optics
PHYSICS 2112L Electricity, Magnetism, and Optics Laboratory
PHYSICS 3200 Mathematical Methods of Theoretical Physics
PHYSICS 3221 Mechanics
PHYSICS 3223 Electricity and Magnetism
PHYSICS 3231 Introduction to Modern Physics I

Also required are:

MATH 1800 Analytic Geometry and Calculus I 26
MATH 1900 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II
MATH 2000 Analytic Geometry and Calculus III
MATH 2020 Introduction to Differential Equations
CHEM 1111 Introductory Chemistry I (MOTR CHEM 150L)
CMP SCI 1250 Introduction to Computing

Total Hours 49

Note: Students are urged to begin the calculus sequence [MATH 1800, Analytic Geometry and Calculus I] as soon as possible to avoid delays in graduation.

Students with experience in digital computer programming may be excused from CMP SCI 1250.

Engineering Physics Option

Students interested in careers in the research and development field of industry should consider this option. This program exposes the student to a basic engineering curriculum, as well as to areas of physics with industrial applications, such as electronics, modern optics, and linear analysis. At least 49 hours, but no more than 51, are required. In addition to the core curriculum, the following courses are required:

Joint Engineering

ENGR 2310 Statics 3
ENGR 2320 Dynamics 3

Joint Electrical Engineering

J E ENGR 2300 Introduction to Electrical Networks 3

Physics

PHYSICS 4310 Modern Electronics 3
PHYSICS 4311 Advanced Physics Laboratory I 3
PHYSICS 4323 Modern Optics 3
PHYSICS 4331 Intro to Quantum Mechanics 3
PHYSICS 4341 Thermal and Statistical Physics 3

Mathematics

MATH 1320 Introduction to Probability and Statistics 3

Computer Science courses for a major or minor in physics may not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading basis.
Program Purpose

The purpose of the B.S. in Physics (Engineering Physics Emphasis) program at the University of Missouri at St. Louis is to prepare students for a professional career in engineering, physics, or applied physics, or for graduate studies in engineering physics or a related field.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of basic physics concepts including classical mechanics, electricity and magnetism, thermal and statistical physics, quantum mechanics, and modern electronics
- Students will be able to design and perform basic physics experiments, assess the significance of their results, and interpret the observed outcome
- Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of statics, dynamics, and electrical networks
- Students will be skilled in problem-solving, critical thinking and analytical reasoning as applied to scientific problems
- Students will be proficient in both written and oral communication of the results of scientific work
- Students will have the skills necessary for conducting original scientific research as part of a problem-solving team
- Students will have the skills necessary to identify possible errors in scientific data, and to assess the significance of observed results

Sample Four Year Plan

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