Physics describes the world in terms of matter and energy and relates phenomena to fundamental law using mathematical representations. Its scope includes systems that range in size from the sub-nuclear to the entire cosmos.

The BS: Physics program supports and enhances professional careers in all the physical sciences, engineering, and the life sciences. Its emphasis on problem-solving also provides a foundation for careers in medicine, business, law, and government. The BS: Biophysics program prepares the graduate for direct entry into the workforce or advanced studies in medical and bioengineering fields as well as biophysics.

The BS: Physics Education program prepares the graduate for a career in secondary teaching.

The “Second Major in Physics” is an add-on degree program that complements any baccalaureate degree without incurring additional general education requirements. It strengthens and expands marketability and interdisciplinary opportunities.

A Minor in Physics complements any baccalaureate degree and is the minimum requirement for secondary teaching certification in physics. All physics majors and minors desiring certification should consult with the School of Education throughout their program.

### Undergraduate Programs

#### BS: Physics—40

**Major Requirements:** PHYS241, 242, 271, 272, 277, 377, 411, 430, 431, 477, 481, 495 plus an additional 12 credits numbered 300 and above.

**Cognate Courses:** MATH141, 142, 215, 240, 286; CHEM131, 132; and CPTR125 (FORTRAN or C++) or CPTR151.

Physics majors desiring secondary-teaching certification should also consult with the School of Education.

**Recommended Electives:** ELCT141, 142, TCED250

#### BS: Biophysics—40

**Offered by the biology and physics departments**

BIOL165, 166, 371; 372 or BCHM421*; PHYS241, 242, 271, 272, 277, 377, 411, 416, 430 or CHEM431 and 441, PHYS431, 495

*A student may earn a minor in chemistry by selecting BCHM421 or CHEM431 and 441.

**Cognate Courses:** CHEM131, 132, 231, 232, 241, 242; MATH141, 142, 286.

**Recommended Electives:** BCHM422, 430; CHEM432, 442; ELCT141, 142; MATH215, 240.

#### BS: Physics Education Major—30

**Major Requirements:** PHYS241, 242, 271, 272, 277, 377, 411, 430, 431, 481, 495 plus an additional 6 credits numbered 300 and above in consultation with advisor.

**Cognate Courses:** MATH141, 142, 240, 286

This major is available only to those who are obtaining secondary teacher certification.

#### BS: Physics as a Second Major—30

**Major Requirements:** PHYS241, 242, 271, 272, 277, 377, 411 (or ENGR285 and PHYS412), 430, 431, 481, 495 plus an additional 3.5–6 credits numbered 300 and above in consultation with advisor.

**Cognate Courses:** MATH141, 142, 240, 286

This major is available only as a second major, to those taking a major in another field.

#### Minor in Physics—20

PHYS241, 242, 271, 272, 277, 411, and electives chosen in consultation with the department chair. Students in a teacher certification program are required to take PHYS430.

### Graduate Program

The Department of Physics collaborates in the MS: Mathematics and Science program with the departments of Mathematics, Biology, and Chemistry. See the program description under Mathematics and Science.

### Courses

See inside front cover for symbol code.

**PHYS110 Astronomy**

Exploring the cosmic environment—the solar system, stars and their development, star clusters, the interstellar medium, galaxies, and large-scale features of the Universe. Meets the General Education Physical Science requirement. Does not apply to a major or minor. Weekly: 3 lectures, 1 recitation, and a 2-hour lab. Prerequisite: MATH145 or 166 or STAT285 or MPE P2.
PHYS110  
**Astronomy**  
AU/GU course—see content above.

PHYS115  
**Concepts of Physics**  
A conceptual approach to physics—forces, matter, and energy with 21st century applications. Meets the General Education Physical Science requirement. Does not apply to a major or minor. Weekly: 3 lectures, 1 recitation, and one 3-hour lab. Prerequisite: A minimum of MATH167 or MATH168 or MPE P4.

PHYS141, 142  
**General Physics**  
Algebra based introduction to mechanics, relativity, heat, electricity, magnetism, wave motion, physical and geometric optics, and modern physics. Weekly: 3 lectures, 1 recitation, and one 3-hour lab. Prerequisite: A minimum of MATH167 or MATH168 or MPE P4.

PHYS225  
**Sound and Waves**  
The production, transmission, synthesis, and perception of sound as understood through the physical principles, properties, and nature of waves. Includes a survey of applications—music, speech, locomotion, and imaging—and comparisons with light and other kinds of waves. Meets the General Education Physical Science requirement. Does not apply to a major or minor. Weekly: 3 lectures and a 2-hour lab. Prerequisite: MATH145 or STAT285 or MPE P4.

PHYS241, 242; PHYS241H, 242H  
**Physics for Scientists and Engineers**  

PHYS271, 272; PHYS271H, 272H  
**Physics for Scientists Laboratory**  

PHYS277  
**Physics Colloquium**  
Current topics and issues of interest to the physics community. Required each semester of all students with a physics major or minor. Weekly: 1 lecture or activity. Repeatable.

PHYS280  
**Topics in**  
Introductory-level topics in astrophysics, other current physics area or associated scientific programming. Repeatable to 4 credits. Minimum of 4 hours per week is required for each credit earned. Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor.

PHYS295  
**Independent Study / Research**  
Individually directed reading and lab projects (e.g., holography and astrophotography). A minimum of 4 hours per week is required for each credit earned. Repeatable to 4 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor.

PHYS350  
**Optics**  
Geometrical and physical optics; interference and diffraction, polarization, Fourier optics, lasers, and holography. Prerequisites: PHYS242 (recommended) or 142; MATH142.

PHYS377  
**Advanced Physics Laboratory I**  
Development of advanced lab skills in the study of basic physical phenomena. Emphasis includes scientific instrumentation, lab procedure, data reduction, interpretation, and technical communication. Repeatable to 2 credits.

PHYS400  
**Demonstrations in Physics**  
Identifying topics suitable for demonstration, surveying the literature, preparing demonstrations, finding suppliers of materials and equipment. A critical evaluation of demonstrations—their design, preparation, and execution—with student participation. Prerequisite: Approval of the department chair.

PHYS411, 412  
**Theoretical Mechanics**  
Statics, kinematics, and dynamics of systems of particles. Application of vector calculus to mechanics; Lagrangian and Hamiltonian formulations. Prerequisite: PHYS242 (recommended) or PHYS142; MATH142.

PHYS416  
**Biophysics**  
Modeling and describing physical phenomena of living systems, including transport and diffusion across membranes and electrical processes in muscle and nerve tissue. Prerequisite: PHYS242 (recommended) or PHYS142; MATH142.

PHYS420  
**Advanced Topics in**  
Astrophysics, atomic physics, nuclear physics, relativity or other current physics area. Prerequisite: PHYS242 or 411. Repeatable to 6 credits.

PHYS430  
**Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics**  
Systematic introduction to thermodynamics, kinetic theory, and statistical mechanics (classical and quantum). Prerequisites: PHYS242 (recommended) or PHYS142; MATH142.

PHYS431, 432  
**Electricity and Magnetism**  
A treatment of electromagnetic phenomena in terms of potentials and vector fields. PHYS431 develops Maxwell’s equations with descriptions of electrostatics and magnetostatics as solutions to Laplace’s and Poisson’s equations. PHYS432 addresses electromagnetic radiation in media, reflection and refraction, and the fields of wave guides and antennae. Prerequisite or corequisite: PHYS411.

PHYS445  
**Particle Physics**  
A study of particle properties, forces, structure, decay and reaction mechanism in the context of the Standard Model. Prerequisite: PHYS481.

PHYS460  
**Solid State Physics**  
A study of crystallography, x-ray diffraction, properties of
crystalline and amorphous solids, band theory of solids, and lattice dynamics. Prerequisite: PHYS411.

PHYS475 (2.5)  
Physic Review  
A review and synthesis of physics concepts and analytical and experimental techniques in preparation for entry into a graduate program. Topics include classical, statistical and quantum mechanics, waves and classical fields. Prerequisite: PHYS411.

PHYS477 ♦ $ (1)  
Advanced Physics Laboratory II  
Important phenomena, equipment, and techniques in modern experimental physics. Repeatable to 2 credits.

PHYS481, 482 ♦ Alt (3, 3)  
Quantum Mechanics  
The mechanics of small-scale physical phenomena as developed by Heisenberg, Schrödinger, and Dirac. Treatment of square well, step, and harmonic oscillator potentials; uncertainty relations; and symmetries to include angular momenta. Prerequisite or corequisite: PHYS411.

PHYS495 (1–3)  
Independent Study/Research  
Individually directed study, problem-solving, or research in selected fields of physics. A minimum of 4 hours work per week is required for each credit earned and a written paper is required. Repeatable to 6 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor.

PHYS530 (1–3)  
Topics in Teaching Physics  
Discussions on 1) the principles of physics and effective approaches for teaching them, or 2) the physics lab, its purposes, administrative and safety procedures, essential equipment, seminal experiments, data analysis, lab journal, and reports. Repeatable to 9 credits.

PHYS540 (2–3)  
Topics in Physics  
Study in one of the traditional areas of graduate physics such as electromagnetic theory, analytical or quantum mechanics, solid state, atomic, nuclear or high energy physics, astrophysics, relativity, or mathematical physics. Students must complete assigned readings and problems. Satisfactory performance on a written or oral comprehensive exam required. Repeatable to 9 credits.

PHYS648 (1–3)  
Workshop  
An intensive program for middle school and secondary teachers and teachers-in-training who seek certification or endorsement in physics and who wish to update and expand their skills in the physics laboratory.

PHYS690 (1–3)  
Independent Study/Research  
Individually directed study, problem-solving, or research in selected fields of physics. Open to qualified students who show ability and initiative. A minimum of 4 hours work per week expected for each credit earned. Repeatable to 6 credits. Prerequisite: Consent of department chair.

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Emeriti
Ely H. Economou  
A. Josef Greig  
S. Douglas Waterhouse

### Academic Programs

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### Programs

#### BA: Theology

Choose from one of the following:

**Pastoral Ministry Emphasis—65**
RELB110, 115, 210, 214, 335, 406, 476; RELP200 (each semester registered), 240, 330; two courses from 336 or 337 or 338; 441, 442; RELT100, 226, 250, 308, 340; BIBL211, 212, 311, 312, 321, 322, 427.

**Required Cognates (9 credits):** HIST404; RELH316, 317.
Minimum grades of C- must be earned in HIST404 and in all RELB, RELH, RELP, and RELT courses that apply to major requirements.

**Graduation Requirement:** Ministerial candidacy

**Youth Ministry Emphasis—75**
RELB110, 115, 210, 214, 335, 406, 476; RELP200 (each semester registered), 240, 330; two courses from 336 or 337 or 338; 335, 441, 442; RELT100, 226, 250, 308, 340; BIBL211, 212, 311, 312, 321, 322. Choose three from ANTH200, BHSC220, FMST454, 456, PSYC204, 251, 252, 319, 454, SOCI120, 345, 415, 430