
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

128 Science Building II
503-725-3812
www.physics.pdx.edu

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM—ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION

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

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

Environmental Physics Option

Ph 201, 202, 203 General Physics or Ph 211, 212, 213 General Physics with	12
Ph 214, 215, 216 General Physics Lab	3
Ph 311, 312 Introduction to Modern Physics	8
Ph 314, 316 Experimental Physics I, III	16
PH 426 Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics	4
PH 375 The Earth's Atmosphere	4
<u>At least two of the following electives</u>	
Ph 322 Computational Physics	4
PH 323 Radiation	4
PH 424 Classical Mechanics	4
PH 431 Electricity and Magnetism I	4
PH 432 Electricity and Magnetism II	4
PH 434 Introduction to Mathematical Physics	4
PH 451 Electron Microscopy	4
PH 464 Applied Optics	4
PH 471 Atmospheric Physics	4
PH 490 Biophysics	4
TOTAL in physics (minimum)	<u>47</u>
Mth 251, 252, 253, 254 Calculus	16
Mth 256 Applied Differential Equations I	4
Mth 261 Introduction to Linear Algebra	4
Bi 251, 252, 253 General Biology	12
CH 221, 222, 223 General Chemistry	12
CH 227, 228, 229 General Chemistry Lab	3
TOTAL in other	<u>51</u>

Choose 20 credits from the following list:

Bi 357, 475, 476; G 322, 351, 458, 469, 461, 484; Geog 310, 311, 312, 414; Ch 360, 371, 375, 426, 427; CE 371; ESR 221, 222, 320, 321, 323, 324.

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