

Physics & Astronomy

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Program Overview

Physics is often regarded as the cornerstone of the Natural Sciences. It encompasses a diverse range of disciplines including astronomy and astrophysics, photonics, electronics, classical and quantum mechanics, statistical mechanics, particle physics, and solid state physics. The **BSc Major** program provides students with a fundamental understanding of physics. The highest level of specialization at the undergraduate level is the **BSc Honours** program. It prepares students for direct entry into graduate work in physics (leading to an MSc or PhD degree). Students may be admitted into the Honours program after one year is completed in the Physics Major program.

The **Master of Science** (MSc) program is designed to give students a much deeper appreciation of physics while at the same time training them to become independent researchers and scientists. Graduate supervision is available in a wide variety of disciplines including astrophysics, exoplanetary science, theoretical cosmology and gravitational theory, and particle physics.

First-year Science Core requirements

All Physics students are required to take six course credits of Introductory Physics (PHY 191, PHY 192), six course credits of Introductory Calculus (MAT 191, MAT 192), and six course credits of Introductory Chemistry (CHM 191, CHM 192), normally in their first year. Students with a Québec collegial diploma (DEC) shall be granted advanced credit for these courses if they have completed the Pure Science program. If any of these equivalent

courses were not completed at CEGEP, they must be completed at Bishop's and advanced credits shall be reduced accordingly. Students with a Québec collegial diploma (DEC) may be exempted from MAT 108 (Matrix Algebra) if they obtained high standing in an equivalent course at CEGEP. Students would have to replace this course if they received an exemption.

Humanities requirement (BSc students only)

Students must complete six course credits of humanities studies, normally in their first year at Bishop's. Students who have a Québec Collegial Diploma (DEC), students admitted as "Mature Students", and 2nd Bachelor's degree students are all exempt from this requirement. The Humanities requirement must include ENG 116 Effective Writing, or another English course (coded 'ENG'), and one additional course selected from Humanities courses in Classical Studies, English, History, Liberal Arts, Philosophy or Religion (courses coded CLA, ENG, HIS, LIB, PHI, or REL respectively).

Arts and Science requirement (BSc students only)

In addition to the Humanities requirement above, all students are required to complete at least three credits in either the Division of Humanities or the Division of Social Sciences. Students with program combinations which require *more than* 72 credits are exempt from this requirement.

Please refer to the Natural Sciences Division page for information on **Divisional Requirements**.

Laboratory Courses (BSc students only)

When any lecture course (e.g., PHY 206) also has an associated laboratory course (e.g. PHL 206), both the lecture and laboratory courses should be taken concurrently. Laboratory credits thus obtained are in addition to the total required lecture credits specified below for the program.

Undergraduate Programs

Physics Honours (117 credits) HONPHY

Entrance Requirements for Honours Program:

A student will normally be admitted to the Honours program after obtaining at least a 70% average on all required second-year (200-level) physics and mathematics courses. In order to complete an Honours degree, a student must normally obtain an average of at least 65% in required physics courses in each academic year.

Requirements:

First year Science core requirements as listed above*. The following courses are also required for the Physics Honours:

PHY 101, PHY 206, PHY 207, PHY 208, PHY 270, PHY 315, PHY 316, PHY 317, PHY 318, PHY 319, PHY 320, PHY 321, PHY 361, PHY 371, PHY 462, additional 400-level course, PHY 480; MAT 108, MAT 206, MAT 207, MAT 209, MAT 317; CS 211.

Total: **54** lecture-course credits physics, **15** credits math, **3** credits computer science, **15** elective credits = **87 lecture-course credits**.
Physics labs: PHL 206, PHL 385, PHL 386, PHL 387, PHL 388, Computer Science lab: CSL 211. Total of **10 lab-course credits**.

N.B.: When any lecture course (e.g., PHY 206) also has an associated laboratory course (e.g. PHL 206), both the lecture and laboratory courses must be taken concurrently. Laboratory credits thus obtained are in addition to the total required lecture credits specified above for the program.

**Students with a CEGEP DEC or mature students will be granted advanced credits for these courses as appropriate.*

Physics Major (117 credits) MAJPHY

A Physics Major is less intensive than the Honours program and does not require any 400-level physics courses or MAT 317.

Requirements:

First year Science core requirements as listed above*. The following courses are also required for the Physics Major:

PHY 101, PHY 206, PHY 207, PHY 208, PHY 270, PHY 315, PHY 316, PHY 317, PHY 318, PHY 319, PHY 320, PHY 321, PHY 361, PHY 371; MAT 108, MAT 206, MAT 207, MAT 209; CS 211.

Total: **42** lecture-course credits physics, **12** credits math, **3** credits computer science, **30** elective credits = **87 lecture-course credits**.

Physics labs: PHL 206, PHL 385, PHL 386, PHL 387, PHL 388, Computer Science lab: CSL 211.

Total of 10 lab-course credits.

N.B.: When any lecture course (e.g., PHY 206) also has an associated laboratory course (e.g. PHL 206), both the lecture and laboratory courses must be taken concurrently. Laboratory credits thus obtained are in addition to the total required lecture credits specified above for the program.

**Students with a CEGEP DEC or mature students will be granted advanced credits for these courses as appropriate.*

Physics Minor (24 credits) MINPHY

A minor in Physics allows students to gain a solid introduction to the subject.

Requirements:

The following courses are required:

PHY 191, PHY 192, MAT 108, PHY 101, PHY 206, PHY 207, PHY 208 and one other lecture course in Physics selected from 200 and 300 level courses. The total course credit requirement for the minor is **24 lecture-course credits**.

N.B.: When any lecture course (e.g., PHY 206) also has an associated laboratory course (e.g. PHL 206), both the lecture and laboratory courses must be taken concurrently. Laboratory credits thus obtained are in addition to the total required lecture credits specified above for the program.

PHYSICS HONOURS DEGREE*Two possible sequences are suggested below*

Year/Semester	SEQUENCE #1		SEQUENCE #2	
	FALL	WINTER	FALL	WINTER
U1	First-year science core credits OR DEC in Pure or Applied Science			
U2	PHY 101 PHY 206 / PHL 206 PHY 270 MAT 108 MAT 206	PHY 208 PHY 207 MAT 207 MAT 209 Option 1*	PHY 101 PHY 206 / PHL 206 PHY 270 MAT 108 MAT 206	PHY 208 PHY 207 MAT 207 MAT 209 Option 1*
U3	PHY 318 PHY 361 CS 211 / CSL 211 PHL 385‡ Option 2* Option 5*	PHY 317 PHY 315 PHY 462 PHL 386‡ Option 3* Option 4*	MAT 317 PHY 320 PHY 316 CS 211 / CSL 211 PHL 387‡ Option 2*	PHY 321 PHY 319 PHY 371 PHY 466‡ PHL 388‡ Option 4*
U4	MAT 317 PHY 320 PHY 316 PHY 480 PHL 387‡	PHY 321 PHY 319 PHY 371 PHY 466‡ PHY 480 PHL 388‡	PHY 318 PHY 361 PHY 480 PHL 385‡ Option 3*	PHY 317 PHY 315 PHY 462 PHY 480 PHL 386‡ Option 5*

* Or one other 400-level course.

‡ One-semester lab course (6 hours per week) worth 2 credits.

* At least 3 credits must be taken in either the Division of Humanities or Social Sciences if a student's program combinations require less than 75 lecture credits.

PHYSICS MAJOR DEGREE*Two possible sequences are suggested below*

Year/Semester	SEQUENCE #1		SEQUENCE #2	
	FALL	WINTER	FALL	WINTER
U1	First-year science core credits OR DEC in Pure or Applied Science			
U2	PHY 101 PHY 206 / PHL 206 PHY 270 MAT 108 MAT 206	PHY 208 PHY 207 MAT 207 MAT 209 Option 1*	PHY 101 PHY 206 / PHL 206 PHY 270 MAT 108 MAT 206	PHY 208 PHY 207 MAT 207 MAT 209 Option 1*
U3	PHY 318 PHY 361 CS 211 / CSL 211 PHL 385‡ Option 2* Option 3*	PHY 317 PHY 315 PHL 386‡ Option 4* Option 5* Option 6*	PHY 320 PHY 316 CS 211 / CSL 211 PHL 387‡ Option 2* Option 3*	PHY 321 PHY 319 PHY 371 PHL 388‡ Option 4* Option 5*
U4	PHY 320 PHY 316 PHL 387‡ Option 7* Option 8*	PHY 321 PHY 319 PHY 371 PHL 388‡ Option 9* Option 10*	PHY 318 PHY 361 PHL 385‡ Option 6* Option 7*	PHY 317 PHY 315 PHL 386‡ Option 8* Option 9* Option 10*

‡ One-semester lab course (6 hours per week) worth 2 credits.

* At least 3 credits must be taken in either the Division of Humanities or Social Sciences if a student's program combinations require less than 75 lecture credits.

Elective Courses (Liberal Science Options)

These courses are open to any students with little or no scientific background.

PHY 111	Physics of Everyday Phenomena
PHY 112	Introduction to Holography
PHY 113	Introduction to Astronomy

Physics Major and Honours Courses

These courses typically numbers that start at 100 and extend to 399.

Note that 3rd and 4th year physics students may take 400-level courses if they have the prerequisites.

Physics Honours Courses

Final-year Honours physics courses have numbers that start with 462 and end at 480.

Graduate Courses

All graduate MSc courses have numbers that start with 500 or above.

List of Courses

PHY 101 Statistical Methods in Experimental Science 3-3-0

This course is specifically designed to meet the needs of students of physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics and computer science. Topics include: errors of observation, graphical visualization of data; descriptive analysis, elementary probability, permutations and combinations; the binomial, normal and Poisson distributions; random sampling; testing hypotheses, significance levels, confidence limits, large and small sampling methods; regression and correlation; chi-square test; analysis of variance (ANOVA).

Note: In order for students to obtain credit for both PHY 101 and MAT 314, PHY 101 must be taken first or concurrently. Students who are enrolled in, or who have credit for, PMA 160, BMA 141, or EMA 141 may not enrol in this course.

PHY 111 The Physics of Everyday Phenomena 3-3-1

This course is designed to meet the needs of non-science students by providing them with a practical introduction to physics and science as it applies to everyday life. Students are assumed to have no background in math or science. By allowing students to practice science through practical demonstrations of physical phenomena and engaging in small-group inquiry and discussion, they will learn to think logically when solving problems, enhance their scientific literacy, and develop their physical intuition. Typical questions that will be addressed include: Why is the sky blue? Why purchase a car with an anti-locking brake system (ABS)? Where is lightning most likely to strike and how can you best protect yourself? How do medical scanning procedures such as MRI work? Does a curve ball really curve or is it an optical illusion?

Note: Students enrolled in a program in the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics cannot use this course for science credits.

PHY 112 / FIN 209 Introduction to Holography 3-3-0

This course is designed to give students an introduction to the principles of laser holography (3-D photography) while at the same time providing them with the opportunity to create holograms in the laboratory. Students are assumed to have no background in mathematics or science. Students will make holograms using single and multiple beam reflection and transmission techniques. Special topics related to the making of rainbow, colour, and other types of holograms will be discussed and attention will be given to the application of this medium as a form of visual expression. In addition students will be able to apply their knowledge to create holograms at home (sandbox holography).

Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

See FIN 209

Students may not take this course for credit if they have received credit for FIN 209. Students enrolled in a program in the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics cannot use this course for science credits.

PHY 113 Introduction to Astronomy 3-3-1

An outline of our knowledge of the size, structure and possible origin of the Universe. Starting with the primitive speculations of the Greeks, the course ends with the theory of the expanding universe and its origin in the "Big Bang".

Prerequisite: Students should have a background in high school mathematics.

PHY 191 Introductory Physics I (Mechanics) 3-3-0

This course is designed to give students an introduction to classical mechanics. Topics that will be covered include statics, particle kinematics in one and two dimensions, particle dynamics and Newton's Laws, conservation of energy and momentum, and rotational kinematics and dynamics.

Corequisite: MAT 191 or MAT 198

This course should be taken concurrently with Physics Lab 191 (PHL 191). This course is for students who lack collegial Physics NYA. Students who have received credit for an equivalent course taken elsewhere may not register for this course. Credit will be given for only one of PHY 191, PHY 193 or PHY 199F.

PHL 191 Introductory Physics Laboratory I 1-0-3

A series of experiments in General Physics to complement the material covered in PHY 191.

This course must be taken concurrently with PHY 191. May not be taken for credit if credit has been granted for PHL 193.

PHY 192 Introductory Physics II (Electricity and Magnetism) 3-3-0

This course is designed to give students an introduction to electromagnetism and its applications. Topics that will be covered include Coulomb's Law, electric fields, electric potential, capacitance, direct current circuits, magnetism, electromagnetic induction, alternating current circuits, and electromagnetic waves.

Prerequisite: PHY 191, PHY 193, or the permission of the instructor.

Corequisite: MAT 192 or MAT 199

This course should be taken concurrently with PHL 192. This course is for students who lack collegial Physics NYB. Students who have received credit for an equivalent course taken elsewhere may not register for this course. Credit will be given for only one of PHY 192, PHY 194 or PHY 199F.

PHL 192 Introductory Physics Laboratory II 1-0-3

A series of experiments in General Physics to complement the material covered in PHY 192.

This course must be taken concurrently with PHY 192. May not be taken for credit if credit has been granted for PHL 194.

PHY 193 Physics for the Life Sciences I 3-3-0

This course is designed to emphasize topics of particular relevance to the life sciences. Topics that will be covered include: mechanics (statics, kinematics, dynamics, conservation of energy and momentum, rotational motion); fluid dynamics (pressure, elasticity, viscosity, diffusion); and thermodynamics (temperature, heat transport, kinetic theory of gases). Concepts and problem-solving skills are emphasized.

Corequisite: MAT 191 or MAT 198

This course should be taken concurrently with PHL 193. This course is for students who lack collegial Physics NYA.

Students who have received credit for an equivalent course taken elsewhere may not register for this course.

Credit will be given for only one of PHY 191, PHY 193, and PHY 199F

PHL 193 Physics for the Life Sciences Laboratory I 1-0-3

A series of experiments in college physics to complement the material covered in PHY 193.

This course must be taken concurrently with PHY 193. May not be taken for credit if credit has been granted for PHL 191.

PHY 194 Physics for the Life Sciences II 3-3-0

This course is designed to emphasize topics of particular relevance to the life sciences. Topics that will be covered include: vibrations and waves; sound; electrostatics (charges, electric fields and potential); circuits; magnetism (forces, induction, electromagnetic waves); optics (interference, diffraction, instruments); and modern physics (atoms, radioactivity, MRI, CAT).

Prerequisite: PHY 191 or PHY 193 or the permission of the instructor.

Corequisite: MAT 192 or MAT 199

This course should be taken concurrently with PHL 194. This course is for students who lack collegial Physics NYB.

Students who have received credit for an equivalent course taken elsewhere may not register for this course.

Credit will be given for only one of PHY 192, PHY 194, and PHY 199F