Duluth Campus

Physics B.A.

UMD-Physics & Astronomy

Swenson College of Science and Engineering

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2013
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 55
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

The B.A. in physics is a liberal arts degree that allows considerable freedom in the planning of upper level courses and can easily be combined with other majors and interests. The physics courses emphasize conceptual foundations, problem-solving skills, and experimental techniques.

Honors Requirements: To graduate with honors, students must participate in the department honors program, complete and present a research project, and maintain a GPA above 3.00 overall and in the major. They are also expected to attend department colloquia. Interested students should contact the physics honors program coordinator.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

Required prerequisites

Introductory Requirement (1 cr)

Transfer students with 24 or more credits and current students who change from a B.S. degree or change colleges may request to be waived from this requirement. New first-year students with 24 or more PSEO credits may request to be waived from this requirement.

UST 1000 - Learning in Community (1.0 - 2.0 cr)

General Requirements

The Board of Regents, on recommendation of the faculty, grants degrees from the University of Minnesota. Requirements for an undergraduate degree from University of Minnesota Duluth include the following:

1. Students must meet all course and credit requirements of the departments and colleges or schools in which they are enrolled including an advanced writing course. Students seeking two degrees must fulfill the requirements of both degrees. However, two degrees cannot be awarded for the same major.
2. Students must complete all requirements of the Liberal Education Program.
3. Students must complete a minimum of 120 semester credits.
4. At least 30 of the last 60 degree credits earned immediately before graduation must be awarded by UMD.
5. Students must complete at least half of their courses at the 3xxx-level and higher at UMD. Study-abroad credits earned through courses taught by UM faculty and at institutions with which UMD has international exchange programs may be used to fulfill this requirement.
6. If a minor is required, students must take at least three upper division credits in their minor field from UMD.
7. The minimum cumulative UM GPA required for graduation will be 2.00 and will include only University of Minnesota coursework. A minimum UM GPA of 2.00 is required in each UMD undergraduate major and minor. No academic unit may impose higher grade point standards to graduate.
8. Diploma, transcripts, and certification will be withheld until all financial obligations to the University have been met.

Program Requirements

1. A second field of study (either a minor or another major).

2. Students interested in teaching 9-12 physics may enroll concurrently in secondary licensure requirements in the Department of Education and apply for admission to the Secondary Teacher Education Program.

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Information current as of March 28, 2024

Core Courses (22 cr)

PHYS 1021 - Exploring Current Topics in Physics (1.0 cr)
PHYS 2013 - General Physics I [LE CAT, NAT SCI] (4.0 cr)
PHYS 2014 - General Physics Lab I [NAT SCI] (1.0 cr)
PHYS 2015 - General Physics II (4.0 cr)
PHYS 2016 - General Physics Lab II (1.0 cr)
PHYS 2021 - Relativity and Quantum Physics (4.0 cr)
PHYS 2022 - Classical Physics (4.0 cr)
PHYS 2033 - Classical and Quantum Physics Lab (2.0 cr)
PHYS 5090 - Physics Seminar (1.0 cr)

Electives (11 cr)

Take 11 or more credit(s) from the following:

- AST 4110 - Observational Astronomy (3.0 cr)
- LIM 5101 - Physical Limnology (3.0 cr)
- PHYS 3033 - Analytical Methods in Physics (3.0 cr)
- PHYS 3061 - Instrumentation (3.0 cr)
- PHYS 4001 - Classical Mechanics (4.0 cr)
- PHYS 4011 - Electromagnetic Theory (4.0 cr)
- PHYS 4021 - Quantum Physics II (4.0 cr)
- PHYS 4031 - Thermal and Statistical Physics (4.0 cr)
- PHYS 5041 - Optics (3.0 cr)
- PHYS 5043 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- PHYS 5052 - Computational Methods in Physics (3.0 cr)
- PHYS 5053 - Data Analysis Methods in Physics (3.0 cr)
- PHYS 5061 - Experimental Methods (3.0 cr)
- PHYS 5531 - Introduction to Solid State Physics (3.0 cr)
- PHYS 5541 - Fluid Dynamics (3.0 cr)
- PHYS 3561 - Astrophysics I Stellar Astrophysics (3.0 cr)

or PHYS 5561 - Astrophysics I Stellar Astrophysics (3.0 cr)

Courses From Other Programs (21 cr)

MATH 1296 - Calculus I [LE CAT, LOGIC & QR] (5.0 cr)
MATH 1297 - Calculus II [LOGIC & QR] (5.0 cr)
MATH 3280 - Differential Equations with Linear Algebra (4.0 cr)
MATH 3298 - Calculus III (4.0 cr)
WRIT 3130 - Advanced Writing: Engineering (3.0 cr)
or WRIT 3150 - Advanced Writing: Science (3.0 cr)

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