

Major Map: Physics Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

College of Arts and Sciences Department of Physics & Astronomy Bulletin Year: 2025-2026

This course plan is a recommended sequence for this major. Courses designated as critical (!) may have a deadline for completion and/or affect time to graduation. Please see the Program Notes section for details regarding "critical courses" for this particular Program of Study.

| Critical | Course Subject and Title | Credit | | Major | | Prerequisites | Notes |
|----------|---|--------|---|--|--------------|--|-------|
| | er One (16 Credit Hours) | | | | | | |
| | ENGL 101 Critical Reading and Composition | 3 | С | | CC-CMW | | |
| ! | MATH 141 Calculus 1 ³ | 4 | С | | CC-ARP | Math 112/115/116 or MAP score | |
| | CHEM 111 & CHEM 111L – General Chemistry I | 4 | С | | CC-SCI | MATH 111, 115 <i>or</i> MAP score | |
| ! | PHYS 199 Meas. & Analysis in Physics (offered fall only) | 2 | С | | PR | C or better in MATH 115 or higher | |
| | UNIV 101 The Student in the University or Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ | 3 | | | PR/CC | | |
| Semeste | er Two (17 Credit Hours) | | | | | | |
| | ENGL 102 Rhetoric and Composition | 3 | С | | CC-CMW | | |
| | · | | | | CC-INF | | |
| ! | MATH 142 Calculus II | 4 | С | | CC-ARP | MATH 141 | |
| | CHEM 112 & CHEM 112L – General Chemistry II | 4 | С | | CC-SCI | CHEM 111 or 141 & MATH 111, 115 or | |
| | · | | | | | higher math; Prereq or Coreq: MATH 122, 141 or higher & CHEM 112L | |
| ! | PHYS 211 Essentials of Physics I | 3 | С | | PR | MATH 141 | |
| | Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ | 3 | | | CC | | |
| Semeste | er Three (16-17 Credit Hours) | | | | | | |
| | MATH 241 Vector Calculus | 3 | С | | PR | MATH 142 | |
| ! | PHYS 212 Essentials of Physics II | 3 | С | | PR | PHYS 211 & MATH 142 | |
| | CSCE 145 Algorithmic Design I | 4 | С | | CR | Prereg or Coreg: MATH 111 or 115 | |
| | Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ | 3 | | | CC | | |
| | Foreign language ⁵ or other Carolina Core Req. ⁴ | 3-4 | | | CC-GFL | | |
| Semeste | er Four (15 Credit Hours) | | | | | | |
| ! | MATH 242 Elementary Differential Equations or MATH 520 Ordinary Differential Equations | 3 | С | | PR | MATH 142 (MATH 242); C or better in MATH 344 or 544 (MATH 520) | |
| ! | PHYS 307 Intro. to Modern Physics (offered spring only) | 3 | С | | MR | C or better in PHYS 212 & MATH 241 | |
| | STAT 509 Statistics for Engineers | 3 | С | | CR | MATH 142 or equiv. (STAT 509); C or | |
| | or STAT 515 Statistical Methods I | 3 | | İ | CK | higher in MATH 112, 115, 122 or 141, <i>or</i> in | |
| | or STAT STO Statistical Methods I | | | | | both STAT 110 or higher & MATH 111 or placement through MAP (STAT 515) | |
| | History ⁶ | 3 | | | CR | placement uneagri with (C1711 C10) | |
| | Foreign language ⁵ or other Carolina Core Req. ⁴ | 3 | | | CC-GFL | | |
| Semeste | er Five (16 Credit Hours) | | | | 00 0. 2 | | |
| | MATH 300 Transition to Adv. Mathematics | 3 | С | | PR | C or better in MATH 142 (MATH 300 and | |
| | or MATH 344 Applied Linear Algebra | | | | | 344) | |
| | or MATH course (500-level or above) | | | | | , | |
| | PHYS 306 Principles of Physics III (offered fall only) | 3 | С | | PR | PHYS 212 & MATH 142; Prereq or Co-req: MATH 241 | |
| | PHYS 310 Intermediate Exper. Physics | 4 | С | | MR | C or better in PHYS 212 | |
| | PHYS 501 Quantum Physics I (offered fall only) | 3 | C | | MR | PHYS 307 and MATH 242 | |
| | Foreign language ⁵ or Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ | 3 | | | CR/CC | | |
| Semeste | er Six (13 Credit Hours) | | | | | | |
| | PHYS 541 Advanced Experimental Physics I | 4 | С | | MR | C or better in PHYS 310 | |
| | PHYS 502 Quantum Physics II (offered spring only) | 3 | С | | MR | C or better in PHYS 501 | |
| | PHYS 506 Thermal Physics & Statistical | 3 | С | | MR | C or better in PHYS 306 | |
| | Mechanics (offered spring only) | | | | | | |
| | Social Science | 3 | | | CR | | |
| Semeste | er Seven (13-14 Credit Hours) | | | | | | |
| | PHYS 503 Mechanics (offered fall only) | 4 | С | L | MR | PHYS 211 & MATH 242 or 520 | |
| | MATH course (500-level or above) | 3 | С | <u> </u> | PR | See Bulletin listing | |
| | Humanities or Fine Arts | 3 | | <u> </u> | CR | | |
| | Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ or Elective ⁷ | 3 | | <u> </u> | CC/PR | | |
| | Elective ⁷ | 0-1 | | | PR | | |
| | er Eight (14 Credit Hours) | | | | | | |
| | Experimental Physics Elective ⁸ | 4 | С | | MR CC-INT | See Bulletin listing | |
| | PHYS 504 Electromagnetic Theory (offered spring only) | 4 | С | | MR | C or better in PHYS 503 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | Elective ⁷ | 3 | | | PR | | |

Graduation Requirements Summary

| Minimum Total Hours | Minimum Major Requirements Hours | College & Program Requirements Hours | Carolina Core Hours | Minimum Institutional GPA |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 120 | 32 | 42-54 | 34-46 | 2.000 |

- 1. Regardless of individual course grades, students must maintain a minimum 2.000 cumulative GPA.
- 2. Some colleges require a minimum GPA for major courses. Courses indicated in this column are included in the major GPA for this program of study.
- 3. Students who do not place into MATH 141 will be required to successfully complete MATH 112, 115, or 116 before taking MATH 141.
- 4. The Carolina Core provides the common core of knowledge, skill and academic experience for all Carolina undergraduate students.
- Students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language equivalent to the 122 course through course credit or the corresponding foreign language placement score.
- 6. The College of Arts and Sciences requires one U.S. History and one non-U.S. History course, both of which must be chosen from the approved Carolina Core GHS courses. Whichever is not fulfilled through the Carolina Core GHS requirement must be fulfilled through this college requirement.
- 7. No courses of a remedial, developmental, skill-acquiring, or vocational nature may apply as credit toward degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences. The College of Arts and Sciences allows the use of the Pass-Fail option on elective courses. Further clarification on inapplicable courses can be obtained from the College of Arts and Sciences.
- 8. Experimental Physics electives include but are not limited to:

| o. Experimental i hydrod electives include but are not innited to. | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Choose from the following (4 hours): | | | | | |
| PHYS 509 Solid State Electronics (4) (offered spring only) | PHYS 514 Optics, Theory, and Applications (4) (offered fall only) | | | | |
| PHYS 510 Digital Electronics (3) | PHYS 521 Biophysics (4) | | | | |
| PHYS 511 Nuclear Physics (4) (offered spring only) | PHYS 542 Advanced Experimental Physics II (4) | | | | |
| PHYS 512 Solid State Physics (4) (offered spring only) | | | | | |

Program Notes:

- ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 must be completed in the student's first 60 semester hours of work in order for these courses to be credited toward graduation. Other courses designated as critical are prerequisites for subsequent courses, and a delay in completion of these courses may affect time to graduation.
- All undergraduate students must take a 3-credit course or its equivalent with a passing grade that covers the founding documents. This course may
 fulfill any requirement in the program of study. Courses that meet this requirement are listed in the academic bulletin.
- The last 30 credit hours toward your degree must be earned in residence at the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

University Requirements: Bachelor's degree-seeking students must meet Carolina Core (general education) requirements. For more information regarding these requirements, please visit the Carolina Core page on the University website.

| Codes: | | | | | |
|--------|--|--------|---|--|--|
| CC | Carolina Core | CC-INF | Carolina Core – Information Literacy | | |
| CC-AIU | Carolina Core-Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding | CC-INT | Carolina Core – Integrative Course | | |
| CC-ARP | Carolina Core-Analytical Reasoning and Problem-Solving | CC-SCI | Carolina Core – Scientific Literacy | | |
| CC-CMS | Carolina Core-Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Spoken Component | CC-VSR | Carolina Core – Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility | | |
| CC-CMW | Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Written Component | CR | College Requirement | | |
| CC-GFL | Carolina Core-Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Foreign Language | MR | Major Requirement | | |
| CC-GHS | Carolina Core – Historical Thinking | PR | Program Requirement | | |
| CC-GSS | Carolina Core – Social Sciences | | | | |

Disclaimer: Major maps are only a suggested or recommended sequence of courses required in a program of study. Please contact your academic advisor for assistance in the application of specific coursework to a program of study and course selection and planning for upcoming semesters.