

Physics, Bachelor of Science

Total Semester Hours: 62
Hours Per Semester: 16-18

Major Academic Plan (MAP) for Catalog Year 2026-2027

The catalog is the final authority on CATC and major requirements; this is intended as a tool for planning purposes. Student course sequencing may vary depending on course offerings and other variables.

<p>Fall Semester 1</p> <p>PHYS 231 Introductory Physics I^{1,F} MATH 235 Calculus I^{1*}</p> <p>CORE 101: First Year Seminar CORE 131: H. Human Flourishing (1) First Year CATC options-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COMM 101: Oral Comm (2) ▪ ENGW 103: First-Year Writing ▪ Language Core Competency 	<p>Spring Semester 1</p> <p>PHYS 232 Introductory Physics II^{S*} PHYS 294 Physics for the Future (2)^S MATH 236 Calculus II*</p> <p>First Year CATC Options</p>	<p>Summer 1³</p> <p>Consider study abroad, internship, or research options – Wheaton-In summer program, WIN (HoneyRock), Wheaton in the Black Hills, non-major internship, summer research, or other options that provide work experience, build your resume, or grow you personally.</p>
<p>Fall Semester 2</p> <p>PHYS 303 Modern Physics^{F*} PHYS 334 Computer Modeling (2)^{F*} PHYS 351 Analog Electronics (2)^{F*} MATH 237 Calculus III*</p> <p>BITH 211/ARCH 211: Old Testament Thematic Core</p>	<p>Spring Semester 2</p> <p>MATH 245 Linear Algebra* MATH 333 Differential Equations*</p> <p>COMM 101: Oral Comm (2) Visual and Performing Arts (2)</p>	<p>Summer 2³</p> <p>Consider summer coursework</p>
<p>Fall Semester 3</p> <p>PHYS 342 Electromagnetic Theory^{F##} PHYS 345 Data Analysis and Presentation (2)^{F##} CHEM 231 General Chemistry I</p> <p>Consider a semester abroad – GPS</p> <p>Advanced Integrative Seminar Visual and Performing Arts (2)</p>	<p>Spring Semester 3</p> <p>PHYS 341 Analytical Mechanics^{S##}</p> <p>Consider a semester abroad – GPS</p> <p>BITH 213/ARCH 213: New Testament Advanced Integrative Seminar Thematic Core Visual and Performing Arts (2)</p>	<p>Summer 3³</p> <p>Consider summer coursework</p>
<p>Fall Semester 4</p> <p>PHYS Elective (2 or 4)³</p> <p>BITH 315: Christian Thought* Thematic Core</p>	<p>Spring Semester 4</p> <p>PHYS 343 Experimental Physics (2)^{S, 2*} PHYS 344 Quantum Mechanics^{S##} PHYS 494 Senior Capstone (2)^{S*}</p> <p>Complete CATC Coursework</p>	<p>Summer 4</p>

Notes or Special Guidance for Majors:

*Course has a prerequisite

^F Fall only course

^S Spring only course

Offered every other year

¹Classes that meet CATC Thematic Core tags: PHYS 231 (SP), MATH 231 or MATH 233 (AAQR), and PHYS 303 (SIP)

²PHYS 343^{S,3*} or an approved research or internship experience.

³PHYS Elective 2-4 hours. Choose from the following: PHYS 311*, PHYS 352*, PHYS 354*, PHYS 359*, PHYS 361*, PHYS 362*, PHYS 366*, or PHYS 367*. PHYS 359 Thermodynamics*, internships, and research options are strongly recommended for students planning on graduate physics studies.

- PHYS 342 and 345 are offered in the Fall only, in even years. PHYS 344 is offered in the spring only, in even years. PHYS 341 is offered in the spring only, in odd years. PHYS 359 is offered in the fall, odd years. PHYS 343 Experimental Physics is offered in the spring every year. All other major courses are offered Fall only or Spring only in the semester indicated. Major courses in the 3rd and 4th years may be taken in any order and in either year.

-Six CATC Themes are not covered by major requirements or Visual and Performing Arts, but some of these satisfy 2 Themes, and the Advanced Integrative Seminar satisfies at least one Theme. Students are encouraged to take at least 1 double-tagged Thematic Core course.