

Physics, Bachelor of Arts

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

Major Academic Plan (MAP) for Catalog Year 2025-2026

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.

Fall Semester 1 PHYS 231 Introductory Physics I ^{1,F} MATH 235 Calculus I ^{1*} CORE 101: First Year Seminar CORE 131: H. Human Flourishing (1) First Year CATC options- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COMM 101: Oral Comm (2) ▪ ENGW 103: First-Year Writing ▪ Language Core Competency 	Spring Semester 1 PHYS 232 Introductory Physics II ^{S*} PHYS 294 Physics for the Future (2) ^S MATH 236 Calculus II* First Year CATC Options	Summer 1 Consider study, 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.
Fall Semester 2 PHYS 334 Computer Modeling (2) ^{F*} PHYS 351 Analog Electronics (2) ^{F*} MATH 237 Calculus III* BITH 211/ARCH 211: Old Testament Thematic Core	Spring Semester 2 PHYS 331 Spacetime and Quanta ^{S*} MATH 245 Linear Algebra* MATH 333 Differential Equations* Visual and Performing Arts (2)	Summer 2 Consider summer coursework
Fall Semester 3 Upper Division PHYS requirement ² CHEM 231 General Chemistry I Consider semester abroad – GPS Advanced Integrative Seminar Visual and Performing Arts (2)	Spring Semester 3 Upper Division PHYS requirement ² , if not complete PHYS Elective (2-4) ⁵ Consider semester abroad – GPS BITH 211/ARCH 211: Old Testament Advanced Integrative Seminar? Thematic Core Visual and Performing Arts (2)	Summer 3 Consider summer coursework
Fall Semester 4 PHYS 345 Methods of Data Analysis and Presentation (2) ^{F*#} BA Program Elective ⁴ BITH 315: Christian Thought* Thematic Core	Spring Semester 4 PHYS 341 Analytical Mechanics ^{S*#} PHYS 343 Methods of Experimental Physics (2) ^{S,3*} PHYS 494 Senior Seminar (2) ^{S*} Thematic Core Complete CATC Coursework	Summer 4

Notes or Special Guidance for Majors:

*Course has prerequisite

^F Fall only course

^S Spring only course

[#] Offered every other year

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

² Select one from the following set of three upper level physics courses: PHYS 342 Electromagnetic Theory, PHYS 344 Quantum Mechanics, or PHYS 359 Thermodynamics.

³ PHYS 343 or an approved research or internship experience.

⁴ Select one 4-credit course outside the PHYS prefix approved by the advisor as contributing to the student's intended post-graduation plans.

⁵ PHYS 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 342 and 345 are offered Fall only, in even years. PHYS 344 is offered Fall only, in odd years. PHYS 341 is offered Spring only, in odd years. PHYS 359 is offered Spring only, even years. PHYS 343 Experimental Physics is offered 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.

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