

PHYSICS MINOR

College of Arts and Sciences

Program Website (<http://physics.cornell.edu>)

Program Information

Non-physics majors in all Cornell colleges are eligible to earn a Physics minor. To apply to the Physics Minor, visit the Director of Undergraduate studies during office hours or contact physicsdus@cornell.edu to schedule an appointment.

Admission to the Minor Requires

- B- or better in two of the introductory physics courses (see introductory sequence below)
- B- or better in two of the mathematics courses which are listed as prerequisites for those courses.

Minor Requirements

To earn a minor in Physics, a student must:

Complete the following course sequences, with a minimum grade of C-:

Introductory Sequence with Special Relativity

This requires one course out of each of the following four categories:

- a calculus-based introductory mechanics course (PHYS 2207, PHYS 1112, or PHYS 1116¹)
- a special relativity course (PHYS 2216¹ or PHYS 1116¹)
- a calculus-based introductory electromagnetism course (PHYS 2208, PHYS 2213, or PHYS 2217)
- a course on waves (PHYS 2214 or PHYS 2218)

¹ PHYS 1116 may be used to satisfy both requirements (1) and (2).

Students are encouraged to talk with a physics advisor to discuss which sequence is most appropriate for them.

In addition, the following lab(s):

- PHYS 1110 Introduction to Experimental Physics - Introduction to Experimental Physics
- PHYS 2210 Exploring Experimental Physics - Exploring Experimental Physics (only if taking PHYS 2218)

At Least 3 Physics Courses, Totaling 9 or More Credits at the 3000-Level or Above

- Quantum Mechanics (PHYS 3316¹) is required
- A lab course such as PHYS 3310, PHYS 3330, PHYS 3360, ASTRO 4410 is required²
- One additional 3000+ level physics course of at least 3 credits.

¹ Students with credit for another quantum mechanics class (such as AEP 3610, CHEM 3890, or ECE 4060) may substitute a different upper-level physics course for PHYS 3316. However, students that do so must take a second 3000+ level physics class (minimum 3 credits) to take the place of PHYS 3316.

² For the lab class, students may select from PHYS 3310, PHYS 3360, PHYS 4410, AEP 3640, ECE 2100, or BEE 4500.

Additional Stipulation

With the exception of ASTRO 4410, all courses must be taken in the physics department.