

SUNY Potsdam 3 Year Degree Option; Sample Three-Year Plan for Completion of B.A. in Physics

Note: This list of courses provides an example of how a student might complete the degree in three years. Different students will take the required courses in slightly different orders, as each of them decides in consultation with their adviser, and in accordance with when different courses are actually offered. Also: no more than two courses (8 credits) from any one department or area can be used to meet the modes component of the General Education Program, and students should work with their advisers to choose courses accordingly.

First Year, 40-42 Credits:

First Fall Semester	Credits	First Spring Semester	Credits
Calculus I - MATH 151 (FM)	4	Calculus II – MATH 152	4
University Physics I– PHYS 103 (SP, LAB)	4	University Physics II– PHYS 204	4
Writing & Critical Thinking (FW)	4	FS	3
AE	3-4	XC	3
PE/HW	<u>1</u>	PE/HW	1
		FC	<u>3-4</u>
TOTAL	16-17	TOTAL	18-19

First Summer Course	Credits	Second Summer Course	Credits
ML if needed, or elective	3	ML if needed, or elective	3

Second Year, 40-42 Credits, 20-22 of which are UD (upper division):

Second Fall Semester	Credits	Second Spring Semester	Credits
University Physics III-PHYS 305	4 UD	Modern Physics-PHYS 306	4 UD
XC	3 UD	Upper Division Physics Elective	3-4 UD
Upper Division Physics Elective	3-4 UD	Upper Division Elective	3 UD
General Chemistry I-CHEM 105	4	General Chemistry II-CHEM 106	4
PI	<u>3</u>	AC (not in same department as AE) <u>3</u>	
TOTAL	17-18	TOTAL	17-18

First Summer Course	Credits	Second Summer Course	Credits
ML if needed, or elective	3	AH	3

Third Year, 42-44 Credits, 27-29 of which are UD:

Third Fall Semester	Credits	Third Spring Semester	Credits
Upper Division Physics Elective	3-4 UD	Upper Division Physics Elective	3-4 UD
Upper Division Elective	3 UD	Upper Division Physics Elective	3-4 UD
WI UD	3 UD	Elective	3
Upper Division Elective	3 UD	WC UD	3 UD
SI UD	3 UD	SB	3
Upper Division Elective	<u>3 UD</u>	Elective	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	18-19	TOTAL	18-19*

First Summer Course	Credits	Second Summer Course	Credits
SA	3	Elective	3

* One of the Physics Electives should be 3 credit hours, to avoid taking 20 credit hours (taking over 19 credit hours requires special “overload” permission from the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences).

Grand Total **122-128, 47-52 of which are UD**

Notes:

- Each of the two required PE/HW courses can be taken in any semester.

- **Upper division Physics electives must be numbered 350 or higher to count toward the Major.**
- **Majors must complete at least 14 credit hours of Upper Division Physics electives.**
- **Mathematical Physics (PHYS 370) serves as a preparation for the Upper Division courses in the major and should be taken as one of the Upper Division Physics electives. This course includes subject matter from linear algebra, multivariate calculus, and differential equations. MATH 253 and MATH 390 can be substituted for PHYS 370.**
- **Other recommended upper division Physics electives include Mechanics (PHYS 475), Electro-Magnetic Theory (PHYS 481), Thermo & Statistical Mechanics (PHYS 484), and Quantum Physics (PHYS 491).**