Requirements for Astronomy B.A. Degree

This track is designed for students seeking careers in teaching, museum work, science writing, pre-med, etc. Majors in this track must develop a plan to complete course requirements with their advisor.

The requirements listed below are the Department major requirements only. In addition, to graduate you will need to satisfy the University General Education requirements and the College requirement for proficiency in a foreign language (see the College web site for how this may be satisfied).

Astronomy Courses:

ASTRON 191A: First Year Seminar (1 cr, Fall semester only)

ASTRON 224: Stellar Astronomy (4 cr, usually Spring semester) or ASTRON 225: Galactic and Extragalactic Astronomy (4 cr, usually Spring semester)

ASTRON 228: Stars and Galaxies (3 cr, Spring semester only)

ASTRON 301: Writing in Astronomy (3 cr, satisfies Junior year writing requirement – Spring semester only)

ASTRON 335: Modern Astrophysics (4 cr, Fall semester only)

Two additional Astronomy courses at any level and eight additional credits at the 300+ level in astronomy or closely related courses in other Departments (such as Physics or Geoscience)

Some options for 200+ and 300+ Astronomy courses:

ASTRON 220: Special Topics in Astronomy (3 cr., usually Fall semester)
ASTRON 223: Planetary Science (3 cr., usually Fall semester)
ASTRON 226: Cosmology (3 cr., usually Fall semester)
ASTRON 330: Topics in Astrophysics (3 cr., usually Fall semester)
ASTRON 337: Techniques of Optical and Infrared Astronomy (4 cr., Spring semester only)
Physics Courses:

PHYSIC 131 (4 credits with lab): General Physics I (4 cr, both semesters) or
PHYSIC 151 (4 credits with lab): 4 cr., both semesters)

PHYSIC 132 (4 credits with lab): General Physics II (4 cr. both semesters) or
PHYSIC 152 (4 credits with lab): (4 cr., both semesters)

Math Courses:

MATH 127: Calculus for Life and Social Sciences I (3 cr., both semesters) or Math
131: Calculus I (4 cr., both semesters)

MATH 128: Calculus for life and Social Science II (3 cr., both semesters) or Math
132: Calculus II (4 cr., both semesters)

Suggested Course Schedule:

Freshman Year:

Fall: ASTRON 191A, PHYSIC 131/151, MATH 127/131
Spring: PHYSIC 132/151, MATH 128/132

Sophomore Year:

ASTRON 228 (Spring), ASTRON 224/225, Additional 200+ level
astronomy courses

Junior/Senior Years:

ASTRON 301 (Spring), ASTRON 335 (Fall). Additional 300+ level
astronomy (or related sciences) courses