

Building your class schedule

Pre-Registration

When you first look at your schedule, you may find that you're already registered for several courses. Hopefully this will make registration easier for you. You are not required to take these courses—ultimately it is up to you to choose your schedule. However, before you make any changes, we suggest that you discuss your plans with your advisor.

Credit Hours

You must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours to be considered a full time student. The physics degree plan requires 120 credit hours, which is equivalent to 15 credit hours for each of 8 semesters. Note that the University often awards credit for AP or IB (or other) classes or exams. These credits do not necessarily count towards the physics degree requirements.

Example Schedule

This is an example first-semester schedule for a physics major. You may be pre-registered in some of these courses.

Course Prefix/Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
PY201	University Physics I	4
MA141	Calculus I	4
COS100	Science of Change	2
PY299	Physics Today	1
ENG101	Academic Writing and Research	4

- **PY201** is the first physics course for physics majors. Nearly all physics majors take this course. In most cases, AP Physics credit is not a suitable substitute for PY201.
- **MA141** Students who have AP credit for Calculus I can choose to skip MA141 and take MA241 (Calculus II) instead. Likewise, students with AP credit for Calculus II can take MA242 (Calculus III).
- **COS100** Nearly all first year students in the College of Sciences take this course. It counts for both the “Orientation” degree requirement as well as 2 credit hours of the GEP “Interdisciplinary Perspectives” requirement.
- **PY299** Nearly all first year students in physics take this seminar-style course. It counts for 1 credit hour of “Technical Electives”.
- **ENG101** A common alternative to ENG101 for first semester physics students is CH101 (along with the associated lab CH102). You might also consider taking a General Education Program (GEP) course such as PSY200, SOC203 or EC201.