

# BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN PHYSICS (STEM)

The bachelor of arts in physics of builds a foundation in the field while allowing plenty of flexibility to combine the program with a second major or minor in another course of study. The program includes courses in physics and mathematics as well as electives in physics or astronomy. Students also complete a capstone course.

This is a STEM designated program.

Visit the program website (<https://physics.columbian.gwu.edu/ba-physics/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

For information about the admission process, including deadlines, visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (<https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/>). Applications can be submitted via the Common Application (<https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp/>).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
The George Washington University  
800 21st St NW Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20052

For questions visit [undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us](http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us) (<http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us/>).

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationtext>).

Program-specific curriculum:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
Introductory courses (29 credits):		
CSCI 1012	Introduction to Programming with Python	
or MAE 1117	Introduction to Engineering Computations	
PHYS 1021	University Physics I	
or PHYS 1025	University Physics I with Biological Applications	
PHYS 1022	University Physics II	
or PHYS 1026	University Physics II with Biological Applications	
PHYS 2023	Modern Physics	

MATH 1231	Single-Variable Calculus I
MATH 1232	Single-Variable Calculus II
MATH 2233	Multivariable Calculus
MATH 2184	Linear Algebra I
MATH 3342	Ordinary Differential Equations
Advanced courses (21 credits):	
PHYS 2151W	Intermediate Laboratory I: Techniques and Methods
PHYS 3161	Mechanics
PHYS 3164	Thermal and Statistical Physics
PHYS 3165	Electromagnetic Theory I
PHYS 4195W	Physics Capstone

Electives

Two courses (6 credits) in Physics (PHYS) numbered 3000 or above and/or Astronomy (ASTR) numbered 2000 or above.

## GENERAL EDUCATION

In addition to the University General Education Requirement (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>), undergraduate students in Columbian College must complete a further, College-specific general education curriculum—Perspective, Analysis, Communication (G-PAC) (<https://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/general-education-curriculum-gpac/>) as well as the course CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience. Together with the University General Education Requirement, G-PAC engages students in active intellectual inquiry across the liberal arts. Students achieve a set of learning outcomes that enhance their analytical skills, develop their communication competencies, and invite them to participate as responsible citizens who are attentive to issues of culture, diversity, and privilege.

**Coursework (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#generaleducationtext>) for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:**

- One course in critical thinking in the humanities.
- Two courses in critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, or scientific reasoning in the social sciences.
- One course that has an approved oral communication component.
- One course in quantitative reasoning (must be in mathematics or statistics).
- One course in scientific reasoning (must be in natural and/or physical laboratory sciences).

- UW 1020 University Writing
- After successful completion of UW 1020, 6 credits distributed over at least two writing in the discipline (WID) courses taken in separate semesters. WID courses are designated by a "W" appended to the course number.

**Coursework for the CCAS G-PAC requirement is distributed as follows:**

- Arts—one approved arts course that involves the study or creation of artwork based on an understanding or interpretation of artistic traditions or knowledge of art in a contemporary context.
- Global or cross-cultural perspective—one approved course that analyzes the ways in which institutions, practices, and problems transcend national and regional boundaries.
- Local or civic engagement—one approved course that develops the values, ethics, disciplines, and commitment to pursue responsible public action.
- Natural or physical science—one additional approved laboratory course that employs the process of scientific inquiry (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- Humanities—one additional approved humanities course that involves critical thinking skills (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience

**Certain courses are approved to fulfill GPAC requirements in more than one category.**

Courses taken in fulfillment of G-PAC requirements can also be counted toward majors or minors. Transfer courses taken prior to, but not after, admission to George Washington University can count toward the University General Education Requirement and G-PAC, if those transfer courses are equivalent to GW courses that have been approved by the University and the College.

Lists of approved courses in the above categories are included on each undergraduate major's (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#majorstext>) page in this Bulletin.

## SPECIAL HONORS

In addition to the general requirements stated under University Regulations, in order to be considered for graduation with Special Honors, a student must submit for departmental approval an honors thesis based on a two-semester research project. In addition, the student must have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5 in physics courses and 3.5 overall.