

Physics Major Checklist (as of Fall 2026)

Name: _____

Another Major?: _____

Class Year: _____

Foundational

_____ PHYS 141 *Mechanics*
 _____ PHYS 231 *Electricity & Magnetism*
 _____ PHYS 232 *Optics and Modern Physics*

Prerequisite

_____ Math-131 (or concurrent)
 _____ Math-132 (or concurrent)
 PHYS 141; MATH 132 (or concurrent); concurrent MATH 231 recommended

Required courses outside the department

_____ MATH 231 *Calculus III: Multivariable Calculus* MATH 132
 _____ MATH 234 *Differential Equations* MATH 132
 _____ CHEM 111L *Introductory Chemistry I* (or AP credit)

Math / Experimental Methods

_____ PHYS 300 *Mathematical Methods of Physics* PHYS 231 & MATH 231, concurrent MATH 234 recommended
 _____ PHYS 320 *Modern Physical Measurements* PHYS 231 & 232 *Fulfills Writing II requirement*

Three core courses

_____ PHYS 301 *Analytical Mechanics* PHYS 231 & either MATH 231 or 234
 _____ PHYS 302 *Electrodynamics* PHYS 231 & MATH 231, concurrent MATH 234 recommended
 _____ PHYS 313 *Quantum Mechanics* PHYS 232

One elective

_____ PHYS 304 *Statistical & Thermal Physics* PHYS 141 & MATH 132
 _____ PHYS 316 *Experimental Laser Optics* PHYS 231 & 232 *Fulfills Writing II requirement*
 _____ PHYS 317 *Relativity & Fundamental Particles* PHYS 231 & 232
 _____ PHYS 330 *Astronomy & Astrophysics* PHYS 231 & 232 (or permission of instructor)
 _____ PHYS 350 *Computational Physics* PHYS 231 & MATH 132

Senior project

_____ PHYS 405 Senior Exercise [½ credit]

Physics courses offered every year Fall: PHYS 141, 232 Spring: PHYS 231, 300, 301

Physics courses offered every other year Fall: PHYS 313, 330 Spring: PHYS 317, 320
 Fall: PHYS 302, 304 Spring: PHYS 316, 350

Study Plan Worksheet Many 300-level physics courses are offered in alternating years, so taking the foundational courses as early as possible will give you the most flexibility in your schedule.

	Fall	Spring
First-Year	PHYS 141 MATH 131	PHYS 231 MATH 132
Sophomore	PHYS 232 MATH 231	PHYS 300 PHYS-301 MATH 234
Junior		
Senior		

Other Academic Considerations

_____ Study abroad?:

_____ Second major?:

Other types of courses you should consider

Applied math

Scientific computing

Chemistry

Engineering

Research

_____ Faculty research (PHYS 490):

_____ Summer research on campus:

_____ Summer REU/other research experience:

Grad School

_____ Interest in going to grad school?

Honors

Sigma Pi Sigma: Sigma Pi Sigma is the national physics honor society. To be eligible for membership, a student must have an overall GPA of at least 3.5, have completed at least four courses at Trinity towards the physics major, and have an A- average in physics courses. In addition, they must have done one of the following: participated in activities of the SPS, been a physics TA or grader, done research for credit in a physics faculty lab, or completed an additional physics course at Trinity or at another institution.

Honors in Physics at graduation: To be eligible for honors in physics at graduation a student must complete at least one additional physics course beyond the minimum required for the major, and have an average of at least a B+ in all physics courses. The additional course may be a semester of independent research (PHYS 399) or research (PHYS 490).

General education requirements

☐ Arts

☐ Humanities

☐ Social Sciences

☐ Writing I

☐ Writing II

☐ 2nd language

☐ Global

☐ Wellness

☐ IPE