

Academic Rhode Map for BS Physics Major at Rhode Island College

GENERAL EDUCATION: A complete listing of General Education courses can be found at the Office of Academic Support (OASIS) 401 456-8083 or in the online catalog; look at catalog for year you enrolled. For Gen Ed courses, aside from Second Language requirement, which varies depending on where you are placed, you need ONE course from each category. Second Language 101/102 options are: American Sign, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Portuguese, or Spanish. For other ways to satisfy the second language requirement look under the Gen Ed. section of the catalog. For information about Math Placement exam visit the orientation webpage. Any courses marked (F) offered Fall only; (Sp) Spring only. Courses with an asterisk * have prerequisites. Courses with a "W" in the prefix are Writing in the Discipline (WID) courses and will be writing intensive.

Academic Major Checklist	Course	Academic Major Checklist	Course
PHYS 101 Physics for Science and Mathematics I*		PHYS 413W Senior Laboratory (F)* (WID)	
PHYS 102 Physics for Science and Mathematics II*		CHEM 103 General Chemistry I*	
PHYS 307 Quantum Mechanics I (Sp odd)*		CHEM 104 General Chemistry II*	
PHYS 311 Thermodynamics (Sp even)*		MATH 212 Calculus I*	
PHYS 312 Mathematical Methods in Physics (F)*		MATH 213 Calculus II*	
PHYS 313W Junior Laboratory (F)* (WID)		MATH 314 Calculus III*	
PHYS 401 Advanced Electricity and Magnetism I (Sp even)*		MATH 416 Ordinary Differential Equations (Sp)*	
PHYS 403 Classical Mechanics (Sp odd)*			
Select ONE from PHYS 315 Optics (Sp odd)*; PHYS 320 Analog Electronics (F odd)*; or PHYS 321 Digital Electronics (Sp even).			
Select TWO from PHYS 309 (F even years), PHYS 402, PHYS 407, or PHYS 409.			

This map is a semester-by-semester plan to help you toward graduation in four years. Not everyone graduates in four years as it depends on how many courses you can take, and how you do in those courses. This map is not your only route; it is a suggestion. While there are many courses in your major that have prerequisites that will need you to take them in a special order, there is some flexibility in this map.

The column to the left on the other side of this page suggests the ideal courses for you to take each semester. There are times when those courses may be full or unavailable the semester you plan to take them, in which case consider another course from a different semester with which you can switch. The column on the right has "Checkpoints" for each semester that show where you should be by the end of that semester. You should work from this map as you plan each semester's schedule with your advisor. You should plan to see your advisor in late September for the Spring Semester and in February for the Fall. The Map is designed primarily for freshmen coming to college for the first time, but transfer students may also use the Rhode Map with the understanding that they have most likely completed several requirements through transfer of credit, and will be starting further into the program. Maps assume a Fall start, but choices depend on whether it is an odd or even year in which the program is begun.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: The following requirements must be completed by undergraduate degree candidates at Rhode Island College in order to graduate:

- General Education program, including a second language requirement and RIC 100 or equivalent
- College Math Competency (which is separate from the Gen Ed math requirement)
- College Writing Competency (satisfied by FYW with a minimum grade of C)
- Academic Major—see check chart below.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours, with a minimum of 45 credit hours taken at RIC. Of the 45 credit hours, a minimum of 15 credit hours must be in the major (12 of which must be at the 300- or 400-level).
- A minimum overall grade point average of 2.0
- A minimum grade point average of 2.0 in your major

Approved by Department Chair: Sarah Knowlton Date 6/22/2016

Approved by Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Date 6/22/2016

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SEMESTER 1	CR	SEMESTER 1 CHECKPOINTS
First Year Writing (FYW 100) or First Year Seminar (FYS 100).	4	FYW 100P is a 6 credit option. There is a Directed Self-Placement questionnaire you can take to aid in this decision; check the RIC First Year Writing website
RIC 100 Introduction to Rhode Island College	1	Exempt if taking COLL 101, COLL 150, or HONR 150
PHYS 101 Physics for Science and Mathematics I* Lecture and Lab	4	rereq. MATH 120 or appropriate score on mathematics placement exam; satisfies Gen Ed Natural Science (NS)
MATH 209 Precalculus* if needed to be able to take MATH 212 Calculus I* next semester.	4	Prereq. for MATH 209 is MATH 120 or appropriate score. MATH 212 Prereq is MATH 209 or appropriate score on mathematics placement exam; satisfies Gen Ed Math (M)
Gen Ed--Second Lang 101 (based on placement, course higher than 101/102 may be taken). If lang. req. satisfied: Gen Ed Dist. course from (A); (L); (H), or (SB).	4	Language placement test with Dept. of Modern Languages (optional). Complete Second Lang 101 (if needed)
Requirements and GPA		Aim for at least 16 earned credits (While 12 is fulltime, 16 credits are preferred to stay on track to graduate in 4 years). Minimum 2.0 GPA
# CREDITS EARNED	17	Make appointment with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester in Sept.

SEMESTER 2	CR	SEMESTER 2 CHECKPOINTS
FYW 100 or FYS 100	4	Complete FYS and FYW, for FYW, grade C or better
PHYS 102 Physics for Science and Mathematics II* Lecture and Lab	4	Prereq. is PHYS 101; satisfies Gen Ed Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning (AQSR)
MATH 212 Calculus I* or MATH 213 Calculus II*	4	Prereq. for MATH 212 is MATH 209 or app. score. Prereq. for MATH 213 is MATH 212
Gen Ed--Second Lang 102* (if needed), or Gen Ed from (A); (L); (H), or (SB).	4	Complete Second Language 102* (if needed)
Requirements and GPA		Aim for minimum of 32 earned credits, with minimum of 2.0 GPA overall and in the major
# CREDITS EARNED	16	Make appointment with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester in Feb.

SEMESTER 3	CR	SEMESTER 3 CHECKPOINTS
CHEM 103 General Chemistry I (F, Su1)* Lecture and Lab	4	<input type="checkbox"/> Prereq. Math competency or placement on Math exam; satisfies Gen Ed Natural Science (NS)
MATH 213 Calculus II*, or MATH 314 Calculus III*	4	<input type="checkbox"/> Prereq. for MATH 213 is MATH 212 <input type="checkbox"/> Prereq. for MATH 314 is MATH 213
PHYS 309 Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (F even)* or PHYS 320 Analog Electronics (F odd)* (whichever available)	3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Prereq for PHYS 309 is any Natural Science General Education course <input type="checkbox"/> Prereq for PHYS 320 is PHYS 102.
Gen Ed Distribution course from one of these GE categories: Arts (A); Literature (L); History (H), or Social and Behavioral Sciences (SB)	4	
Requirements and GPA		<input type="checkbox"/> Aim for minimum of 48 earned credits, with minimum of 2.0 GPA overall and in major
# CREDITS EARNED	15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Make appointment with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester and discuss possible minor in Sept. <input type="checkbox"/> Also discuss opportunities for research and Independent study

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SEMESTER 4	CR	SEMESTER 4 CHECKPOINTS
CHEM 104 General Chemistry II (Sp, Su)* Lecture and Lab	4	Prereq. CHEM 103 with C- or better
PHYS 307 Quantum Mechanics I (Sp odd)* or PHYS 311 Thermodynamics (S even)* (whichever available)	4	Prereq. for PHYS 307 is PHYS 102 Prereq. for PHYS 311 are PHYS 101 and MATH 213
MATH 314 Calculus III* or MATH 416 Ordinary Differential Equations*	3-4	Prereq. for MATH 314 is MATH 213 Prereq. for MATH 416 is completed or concurrent MATH 314
PHYS 321 Digital Electronics*, Gen ed., or elective	3-4	Prereq PHYS 102
Requirements and GPA		Aim for minimum of 64 earned credits, with minimum of 2.0 GPA overall and in the major
# CREDITS EARNED	13-16	Make appointment with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester in Feb. Discuss opportunities for research and Independent study with your advisor if you have not already done so.

SEMESTER 5	CR	SEMESTER 5 CHECKPOINTS
PHYS 312 Mathematical Methods in Physics (F)*	3	Prereq. MATH 314
PHYS 313W Junior Laboratory (Sp)* (WID)	3	Prereqs. PHYS 102 and PHYS 307
Choose 1 Connections course (Gen Ed-C)	4	Prereqs are 45 completed credits and FYW and FYS.
Gen Ed Distribution course (A, H, L, or SB)	4	
Requirements and GPA		Aim for minimum of 80 earned credits, with minimum of 2.0 GPA overall and in the major
# CREDITS EARNED	14	Make appointment with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester in Sept.

SEMESTER 6	CR	SEMESTER 6 CHECKPOINTS
PHYS 307 Quantum Mechanics I (Sp odd)* or PHYS 311 Thermodynamics (Sp even)* (whichever available)	4	Prereq for PHYS 307 is PHYS 102. Prereqs for PHYS 311 are PHYS 101 and MATH 213. PHYS 307 and PHYS 311 completed
PHYS 401 Advanced E and M (Sp even)* or PHYS 403 Classical Mechanics (Sp odd)*	4	Prereqs. for either are PHYS 102 and MATH 314. Take whichever available
MATH 416 Ordinary Differential Equations* if needed and offered, or elective	3-4	Prereq. completed or concurrent MATH 314
Gen Ed Distribution course (A, H, L, or SB)	4	
Requirements and GPA		Do not take more than 18 credits. Aim for minimum of 96 earned credits, with minimum of 2.0 GPA overall and in the major. Apply for degree audit online through MyRIC
# CREDITS EARNED	15-16	Make appointment with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester in Feb.

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SEMESTER 7	CR	SEMESTER 7 CHECKPOINTS
ONE PHYS elective (PHYS 309, 320, 402, 407, or 409)	3-4	Prereqs. vary—see catalog
PHYS 413W Senior Laboratory (F)* (WID)	3	Prereqs. PHYS 102 and PHYS 313 or PHYS 313W
Gen Ed Distribution course, or elective	3-4	
Gen Ed Distribution course, elective, or course toward minor	3-4	
Requirements and GPA		Aim for minimum of 108 earned credits, with minimum of 2.0 GPA overall and in the major. All ten GE courses and second lang. req. completed
# CREDITS EARNED	12-15	Make appointment with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester in Sept.

SEMESTER 8	CR	SEMESTER 8 CHECKPOINTS
ONE PHYS elective (PHYS 315, 321, 402, 407, or 409)	3-4	Prereqs. vary—see catalog. ONE PHYS elective from PHYS 315, 320 or 321 completed. TWO PHYS electives from PHYS 309, 402, 407 or 409 completed
PHYS 401 Advanced E and M (Sp even)* or PHYS 403 Classical Mechanics (Sp odd)*	4	Prereqs. for either are PHYS 102 and MATH 314. Take whichever available. PHYS 401 and PHYS 403 completed
MATH 416 Ordinary Differential Equations* if still needed, or elective	4	Prereq. completed or concurrent MATH 314; MATH 416 completed
Elective, or course toward minor	3-4	
Requirements and GPA		Need minimum of 120 earned credits, with minimum of 2.0 GPA overall and in the major
# CREDITS EARNED	14-16	Attend Gradfest and Commencement

For more information, check the Physical Sciences Department website: <http://ricollege.prod.acquia-sites.com/department-directory/department-physical-sciences/department-physical-sciences-undergraduate-programs/physics-bs>

Note: Prior to enrolling in any Physics course students must have completed the college mathematics competency. Math Requirement for major (MATH 010 or SAT score >480 or placement exam). Also note: MATH 209 Pre-Calculus Mathematics is a prerequisite for MATH 212, unless score high enough on math placement.

You should also consider getting a Math minor: “A minor in mathematics consists of a minimum of 21 credit hours (six courses), as follows: Mathematics 209 (or 240), 212, 213, and at least three additional courses at the 300-level or above, except Mathematics 409.” For a physics student this might mean: MATH 212 Calculus I; MATH 213 Calculus II; MATH 314 Calculus III; MATH 416: Ordinary Differential Equations; MATH 240 Statistical Methods I; and ONE from MATH 300 Bridge to Advanced Mathematics; MATH 324 College Geometry; MATH 411 Calculus IV; MATH 431 Number Theory, or MATH 436 Discrete Mathematics.

NOTE: The minimum total credit count for the Physics BS is 67 credits (depending on choices), although 12 of those may be offset against Gen Ed. courses (AQSR, M, NS), which leaves 28 more credits of Gen Ed. and possibly 9 more depending on secondary language needs and RIC 100. The minimum credit count will be 95 credits (without secondary language and RIC 100), leaving 25 elective credits, which could be used toward a minor.