



Program Planning Guide

Current and past Program Planning Guides are available on the UofL website at www.uleth.ca/ross/ppgs/ppg.html

Calendar Year: 2011/2012

Faculty: Arts & Science/Education

Department of Physics

What is Physics?

Physics is the fundamental science, the study of matter and energy at all scales, from the subnuclear to the dimensions of the universe. The student who is interested in observing and understanding natural phenomena will enjoy the study of Physics.

About the Major in Physics

The University of Lethbridge Physics and Astronomy Department offers a comprehensive Physics major program. The foundation is built in the first two years by a study of mechanics, waves, electricity and magnetism, optics, thermal physics, and modern physics. In the third and fourth years, students deepen their understanding of the fundamentals, and study more advanced and specialized areas. Students have the benefit of relatively small classes and easy access to faculty. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the active research programs of the Faculty members through Independent Studies, Applied Studies, the Co-op program, and summer employment.

Major Branches of Physics

For those who will ultimately pursue a physics career, the major branches of physics include

- acoustics
- astrophysics
- atomic and molecular physics
- biophysics
- condensed matter physics
- cosmology
- geophysics
- high-energy physics
- medical physics
- nanoscience
- nuclear and particle physics
- soft matter physics

A Wide Diversity of Career Opportunities

Since physics is so fundamental, a physics major is ideally prepared, not only for employment or further study in physics, but also for advanced study or employment in a wide diversity of other fields. Physicists work in industry, they teach all levels from elementary to university education, and they do research in government labs, industry, and academia. Many people with a B.Sc. in physics find employment in related areas such as

- archaeometry
- chemistry
- computer science
- engineering
- medicine
- meteorology
- remote sensing

Because the critical thinking and analytical skills one is taught in the study of physics can be applied to many other fields, many graduates of physics also work in seemingly unrelated sectors such as

- banking
- finance
- forensics
- law
- oceanography
- patent examination

See the Physics website for more extensive information.

Physics/Science Education

The University of Lethbridge Physics and Astronomy Department offers a physics major and combined degrees with the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Management.

This is a planning guide and not a graduation check or guarantee of course offerings. You should have a program check done in your final year of studies. Students are responsible for the accuracy of their own programs. The guide should be used in conjunction with the University of Lethbridge Calendar, which is the final authority on all questions regarding program requirements and academic regulations. Contact an Academic Advisor in the Faculty of Arts and Science or Faculty of Education for advising information.

Co-operative Education in the Sciences A Co-op option, requiring three work terms, is available. Students interested in the Co-operative Education/Internship program should contact the Coordinator of Co-operative Education in the Career Resources Centre (AH154 | phone: 403-382-7154) for further information.

Faculty of Education

Choosing an Education Major The Faculty of Education offers 11 different majors that correspond to teaching subjects in Alberta schools (see p. 163 in the 2011/2012 University of Lethbridge Calendar for a listing). In highly competitive teaching majors, the GPA for admission may be above the minimum requirements.

Choosing Courses Outside the Major Students sometimes find that their initial objective to teach only at the elementary level or only at the secondary school level is later modified—or even completely changed. Students are therefore encouraged to select courses that will prepare them for teaching in a variety of situations. Moreover, students should select courses that not only provide breadth and richness for the classroom but also provide the basis for the development of a teaching minor or specialization.

Choosing an Education Minor The Faculty of Education offers 19 minors (see p. 168 in the 2011/2012 University of Lethbridge Calendar for a listing). A minor consists of five non-Education courses (excluding those used in the major) and one curriculum and instruction Education course (to be completed after admission to the Faculty of Education). Students may use the same courses to fulfill the minor and the General Liberal Education Requirement (GLER).

Choosing an Education Specialization The Faculty of Education offers three specializations:

- Early Childhood Education
- Special/Inclusive Education
- Technology in Education

The specializations consist of four courses and corresponding Professional Semester III focus.

Advantages of Completing a Minor and/or Specialization Completing a minor and/or a specialization allows students to develop expertise in a second area of teaching and be more versatile and marketable as a graduating teacher. For more information, see the 2011/2012 University of Lethbridge Calendar, Part 8 - Education, Sections 7. Education Minors (p. 168) and 8. Education Specializations (p. 172).

Where to Get Help Students may contact an Academic Advisor in Student Program Services in the Faculty of Education (email: edu.sps@uleth.ca | phone: 403-329-2254) or in the Faculty of Arts and Science (email: artsci.advising@uleth.ca | phone: 403-329-5106).

Program Requirements The B.Sc./B.Ed. combined degrees program with a major in Physics/Science Education requires a minimum of 50 courses, including 30 in Arts and Science and 20 in Education. A minimum of 16 courses (10 courses in Physics plus six cognates) is required in the Physics major. A maximum of 17 courses in Physics (including Astronomy and Engineering) is allowed.

Transfer Credit Remember that you may use both University of Lethbridge credit and credit transferred from another college or university to meet degree and major requirements. Transfer credit may be either specified or unspecified. Specified credit is indicated on your transcript by the subject name and the specific number of the course, e.g., Physics 1000, Physics 2120, etc. Unspecified credit (1XXX, 2XXX, etc.) is indicated by the subject name and level of the course in parentheses, e.g., Physics (1000 level), Physics (2000 level), etc.

Unspecified Course Credit Unspecified course credit means that the University of Lethbridge does not offer the same course you transferred in, but we recognize it and treat it as a regular course. An unspecified course would count as one of your maximum of 17 from one department, but it could not meet a specific course requirement. For example, if Physics 2000 is required in your program, you could not use Physics (2000 level) to fulfill that requirement. Students with unspecified transfer credit need to consult an Academic Advisor to establish how the transfer credit fits in the degree program. This should be done as soon as possible after transfer credit is awarded.

Program Worksheet

Name : _____ ID : _____

Required courses:

- _____ 1. ONE of:
- _____ Physics 1000 - Introduction to Physics I
 - _____ Physics 1050 - Introduction to Biophysics
 - _____ *Engineering 2060 - Engineering Mechanics
- *Engineering 2000 and Mathematics 1560 are prerequisites for Engineering 2060.*
- _____ 2. Physics 2000 - Introduction to Physics II
- _____ 3. Physics 2020 - The Physics of Everyday Life
- _____ 4. Physics 2120 - Introduction to Physics III
- _____ 5. Physics 2130 - Waves, Optics and Sound
- _____ 6. Physics 2150 - Quantum Mechanics I
- _____ 7. Physics 2900 - Studies in Experimental Physics (Series)
- _____ 8. Physics 3750 - Contemporary Physics
- _____ 9. ONE of:
- _____ Astronomy 2020 - Modern Astronomy
 - _____ Astronomy 2070 - The Solar System
- _____ 10. ONE other course (3.0 credit hours) offered by the Department of Physics and Astronomy, including courses in Astronomy or Engineering
- _____

Required cognates:

- _____ 11. ONE of:
- _____ Biology 1010 - Cellular Basis of Life
 - _____ Biology 1020 - Diversity of Life
- _____ 12. ONE of:
- _____ Chemistry 1000 - General Chemistry I
 - _____ Chemistry 1110 - Chemistry for Life Sciences I
- _____ 13. Mathematics 1410 - Elementary Linear Algebra
- _____ 14. Mathematics 1560 - Calculus I
- _____ 15. Mathematics 2560 - Calculus II
- _____ 16. Mathematics 2570 - Calculus III

Note: *Students wishing to include 3000-level Physics courses in their program must take Mathematics 2580 (Calculus IV) which is a prerequisite for such courses except Physics 3750 and some offerings of the Physics 3900 Series.*

It is recommended that Physics majors in Combined Degrees include courses in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Mathematics.

Since a number of senior-level Physics courses are offered only in alternate years, students are advised to plan carefully to include the desired courses. Consequently, students who intend to pursue a degree program with a major in Physics are strongly advised to seek help in planning their program from the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

The major in Physics for the Combined Degrees program provides a strong foundation in Physics, but it is not normally sufficient, in the absence of further study in the field, for pursuing graduate studies in Physics at a Canadian university.

Sample Sequencing Plan

Shown below is a sample sequence of courses for your degree. If you follow this plan, you should be able to graduate in five years, provided you complete five courses per semester. This is just one example of how you could complete your major and degree requirements; you may find that a different sequence works as well as this one.

<p>Year 1, Fall Chemistry 1000 or Chemistry 1110 (<i>required cognate</i>) Mathematics 1410 (<i>required cognate</i>) Mathematics 1560 (<i>required cognate</i>) Physics 1000 or Physics 1050 GLER course</p> <p>Year 2, Fall Physics 2020 Education 2500¹ Mathematics 2570 (<i>required cognate</i>) Physics 2120 GLER course</p> <p>Year 3, Fall Professional Semester I</p> <p>Year 4, Fall GLER course 3000/4000 level GLER course Science elective 3000/4000 level Science elective 3000/4000 level Elective 3000/4000 level</p> <p>Year 5, Fall Professional Semester III*</p>	<p>Year 1, Spring Biology 1010 or Biology 1020 (<i>required cognate</i>) Mathematics 2560 (<i>required cognate</i>) Physics 2000 Physics 2130 GLER course</p> <p>Year 2, Spring Astronomy 2020 or Astronomy 2070 Physics 2150 Physics 2900 GLER course GLER course</p> <p>Year 3, Spring Physics 3750 GLER course Science elective 3000/4000 level Science elective 3000/4000 level Elective 3000/4000 level</p> <p>Year 4, Spring Professional Semester II</p> <p>Year 5, Spring Education Foundation course Education elective Education elective Education elective Physics elective 3000/4000 level²</p>
<p>* Secondary Education is offered in Fall and Elementary Education in Spring. For Special Focus and Specialization options, please see Part 14 - Courses in the 2011/2012 University of Lethbridge Calendar.</p>	

¹ Education 2500 may also be taken in Spring or Summer semester.

² Physics electives may be chosen from Physics, Astronomy, or Engineering.

Note: Students wishing to include 3000-level Physics courses in their program must take Mathematics 2580 (Calculus IV) which is a prerequisite for most Physics courses at the 3000/4000 level.

All 3000- and 4000-level Physics courses are offered in alternating years, except for Physics 3200 and Physics 3750.

Students are strongly advised to consult with the Department of Physics and Astronomy regarding the sequencing of courses.

Terms Used

GLER course: A course that could count toward the General Liberal Education Requirement. You may use courses in your major towards this 12-course requirement. See the 2011/2012 University of Lethbridge Calendar, Part 4 - Academic Regulations (p. 85) for complete information.

The Faculty of Arts and Science offers Liberal Education 1000 and 2000, specifically designed to introduce first-year students to the wide scope of human knowledge and teach essential university success skills, critical thinking, and integrative thinking (see the 2011/2012 University of Lethbridge Calendar, Part 14 - Courses, p. 306). LBED 1000 and 2000 may be used toward satisfying the GLER.

Elective: A course that you may choose freely from all those available and applicable to your program. Use courses inside or outside your major, bearing in mind any restrictions that may apply (e.g., a maximum of 17 courses from any one department).

Cognate: A course from a related discipline deemed to complement the chosen area of study and to encompass knowledge and skills essential to that area.

