

# SCIENCE

## 2020 Course Registration Tip Sheet- Physics

### 1. Accept your admission offer and pay your tuition deposit

Once you have accepted your admission offer and paid the tuition deposit, you will be eligible to register in courses. Login to your [UAlberta Launchpad](#) portal to accept and pay.

### 2. What courses should you register in?

- **BSc General: Physics or Physical Sciences Major** (note: **Physical Sciences is a mix of chemistry and physics**)

Your program outline is available at: [uab.ca/SciGeneralDegree](http://uab.ca/SciGeneralDegree) (Select the course planning sheet). We recommend you register for the junior core requirements in your first year of study. These 100-level courses are normally the pre-requisites for higher level science subjects and can be used towards professional programs.

- **BSc Specialization in Astrophysics, Geophysics and Physics**

Locate your program curriculum in our registration guide at [uab.ca/ScienceSpecialization](http://uab.ca/ScienceSpecialization). All three Specialization degrees in Physics required you to have a course load of at least \*24 through the Fall/Winter terms. You must also achieve a minimum 2.3 GPA each year in order to stay in your program and remain in good standing (this is equivalent to a C+ average). **Always review the calendar section (accessible through the link above) in case there are changes.**

- **BSc Honors in Astrophysics, Geophysics, Mathematical Physics and Physics**

Locate your program curriculum in our registration guide at [uab.ca/ScienceHonors](http://uab.ca/ScienceHonors). All four Honors degrees in Physics required you to have a course load of at least \*24 through the Fall/Winter terms. You must also achieve a minimum 3.0 GPA each year in order to stay in your program and remain in good standing (this is equivalent to a B average). **Always review the calendar section (accessible through the link above) in case there are changes.**

**Note:** A minimum of \*120 normally taken in no more than five consecutive academic years is required to complete the Honors program for the degree of BSc with Honors. Honors Physics students must consult an advisor in the Department of Physics regarding their programs. Not all 200-, 300- and 400-level Physics and Geophysics courses are offered every year so students should plan accordingly.

### 3. What courses count as options to fulfill your option requirements for your Physics degree?

**Arts options:** Courses offered by the Faculty of Arts, these are a diverse range of courses from the Humanities, Social Sciences, Fine Arts and Languages.

**Science options:** Courses offered by the Faculty of Science.

**Outside options:** Courses not offered by the Faculty of Science or Faculty of Arts. These are available to General Science students.

**Approved (Pool) options:** Only apply to Specialization & Honors students. These are normally science courses chosen by your department. See the calendar for your list of choices.

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## 4. Tips for creating your ideal timetable.

- **Create a balanced timetable.** Do not register for more than three lab based courses per term as you will have lab assignments and exams in addition to regular course work.
- **Do not register for a course if you do not have the pre-requisite.** Students without the appropriate pre-requisites will be removed from the course. Make sure to read the course description before you register in a course on Bear Tracks.
- **The class you want is full:** If a class is full simply place the class on your watch list (found on Bear Tracks). You will be notified via email or text message when a spot becomes available in the class.
- **Succeed from the start.** If you have questions about how to tackle a paper, report, or exam, how to study or take notes, how to plan your term, or manage a course project, visit the [Academic Success Centre](#).

## 5. Preparing for your degree in Physics

**Be familiar with computer programming,** as it is a part of our physics degrees and will be incorporated in your first year Honors/Specialization programs. Brush up on these programs before September to reduce your learning curve and get a head start:

- [Anaconda Python](#) (a widely used high-level, general-purpose, interpreted, dynamic programming language, available for free download on the web)
- [Matlab](#) is available through OnTheHub with your CCID

**Have a solid background in math.** Math plays a significant role in a physics degree, review past material to make sure it's still fresh in your mind. Students majoring/minoring in Physics or in the Honors/Specialization streams must have Physics 30 and Math 31 (or equivalent) to be successful. As a Physics student you can take either MATH 144 or 117.

**Use the resources available.** The Physics Learning and Teaching Centre (CCIS L2-181) offers drop-in help for all first-year Physics courses. The centre normally opens 2 weeks after class starts.

## 6. Additional assistance

- Advising is available to all Science students, please visit [www.ualberta.ca/science/student-services/your-academics/advising](http://www.ualberta.ca/science/student-services/your-academics/advising) for details.
- For all questions relating to physics courses or registration issues, please email the Department: [physugrd@ualberta.ca](mailto:physugrd@ualberta.ca)
- *For additional questions contact a Faculty Recruiter at [science.recruiting@ualberta.ca](mailto:science.recruiting@ualberta.ca) (while we will not register you in courses, we would be happy to provide assistance and answer your questions).*