

# Physics and Astronomy

## The Wiess School of Natural Sciences

### Chair

F. Barry Dunning

### Professors

Stephen D. Baker  
 Billy E. Bonner  
 Paul A. Cloutier  
 Marjorie D. Corcoran  
 Michael W. Deem  
 Ian M. Duck  
 Reginald J. Dufour  
 Arthur A. Few, Jr.  
 James P. Hannon  
 Thomas W. Hill  
 Huey W. Huang  
 Randall G. Hulet  
 Neal Lane  
 Eugene H. Levy  
 Edison P. Liang  
 Hannu E. Miettinen  
 Gordon S. Mutchler  
 Peter Nordlander  
 Carl Rau  
 Patricia H. Reiff  
 Jabus B. Roberts, Jr.  
 Richard E. Smalley  
 Paul M. Stevenson

### Professors Emeriti

John W. Freeman  
 William E. Gordon, *Distinguished*  
 F. Curtis Michel  
 Ronald F. Stebbings  
 G. King Walters  
 Richard A. Wolf

### Associate Professors

David Alexander  
 Anthony A. Chan  
 Stanley A. Dodds

Patrick M. Hartigan

Qimiao Si

### Assistant Professors

Matthew G. Baring  
 Kedar S. Damle  
 Jason H. Hafner  
 Christopher Johns-Krull  
 Ching-Hwa Kiang  
 Thomas C. Killian  
 Douglas A. Natelson  
 Uwe Oberlack  
 B. Paul Padley  
 Han Pu

Alexander J. Rimberg

Frank R. Toffoletto

### Adjunct Professors

David C. Black  
 James L. Burch  
 Franklin R. Chang-Diaz  
 James H. Newman  
 Carolyn Sumners  
 J. David Winningham

### Adjunct Associate Professors

Hui Li  
 Tomasz F. Stepinski

### Instructor

Gary A. Morris

### Senior Faculty Fellows

William J. Llope  
 Pablo P. Yepes

### Faculty Fellows

Giovanni Fossati  
 Bernard G. Lindsay  
 Ian A. Smith

*Degrees Offered:* B.A., B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

The Department of Physics and Astronomy offers undergraduate and graduate programs for a wide range of interests. The bachelor of arts degrees in physics and in

astronomy are suitable for students who wish to obtain a broad liberal education with a concentration in physical science. The bachelor of science degrees in physics, in astrophysics, and in chemical physics provide preparation for employment or further study in physics and related fields. Research facilities and thesis supervision are available for M.S. and Ph.D. students in atomic, molecular, and optical physics; biophysics; condensed matter and surface physics; earth systems science; nuclear and particle physics; observational astronomy; solar system physics; space plasma physics; and theoretical physics and astrophysics.

### Undergraduate Degree Requirements

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 20–23). Major requirements consist of a common core of basic physics and mathematics courses, with additional course work specific to each degree program. Students may obtain credit for some courses by advanced placement, and the department's Undergraduate Committee can modify requirements to meet the needs of students with special backgrounds.

#### *All physics majors must complete the following courses:*

PHYS 101 or 111 <i>Mechanics (with Lab)</i>	MATH 101/102 <i>Single Variable Calculus I and II</i>
PHYS 102 or 112 <i>Electricity and Magnetism (with Lab)</i>	MATH 211 <i>Ordinary Differential Equations and Linear Algebra</i>
PHYS 201 <i>Waves and Optics</i>	MATH 212 <i>Multivariable Calculus</i>
PHYS 202 <i>Modern Physics</i>	(MATH 221/222 <i>Honors Calculus III and IV</i> may substitute for MATH 211/ MATH 212)
PHYS 231 <i>Elementary Physics Laboratory II</i>	
PHYS 301 <i>Intermediate Mechanics</i>	

#### *Additional courses for the B.S. degree in physics:*

PHYS 302 <i>Intermediate Electrodynamics</i>	(The Undergraduate Research course and seminar must be taken concurrently.)
PHYS 311/312 <i>Introduction to Quantum Physics I and II</i>	
PHYS 331/ 332 <i>Junior Physics Laboratory I and II</i>	MATH 381 <i>Introduction to Partial Differential Equations</i> and MATH 382 <i>Complex Analysis</i> or CAAM 335 <i>Matrix Analysis</i> and CAAM 336 <i>Differential Equations in Science and Engineering</i>
PHYS 411 <i>Introduction to Nuclear and Particle Physics</i>	CHEM 121/122 <i>General Chemistry with Laboratory</i> or CHEM 151/152 <i>Honors Chemistry with Laboratory</i>
PHYS 412 <i>Solid-state Physics</i>	
PHYS 425 <i>Statistical and Thermal Physics</i>	
PHYS 491/492 <i>Undergraduate Research</i>	
PHYS 493/494 <i>Undergraduate Research Seminar</i>	

#### *Additional courses for the B.S. degree in physics with option in applied physics:*

PHYS 302 <i>Intermediate Electrodynamics</i> or ELEC 306 <i>Electromagnetic Fields and Devices</i>	PHYS 311 <i>Introduction to Quantum Physics I</i> PHYS 312 <i>Introduction to Quantum Physics II</i> or ELEC 361 <i>Electronic Materials and Quantum Devices</i>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

- 2 of PHYS 331/332 *Junior Physics Laboratory I and II*, ELEC 327 *Digital Logic Design Laboratory*, ELEC 342 *Electronic Circuits*, and ELEC 465 *Physical Electronics Practicum*
- PHYS 412 *Solid-state Physics* or Approved substitute in applied physics
- PHYS 425 *Statistical and Thermal Physics*
- PHYS 491/492 *Undergraduate Research*
- PHYS 493/494 *Undergraduate Research Seminar*  
(The Undergraduate Research course and seminar must be taken concurrently.)
- ELEC 242 *Fundamentals of Electrical Engineering II* or ELEC 243 *Introduction to Electronics*
- ELEC 305 *Introduction to Physical Electronics*
- MATH 381 *Introduction to Partial Differential Equations* or CAAM 336 *Differential Equations in Science and Engineering*
- CHEM 121/122 *General Chemistry with Laboratory* or CHEM 151/152 *Honors Chemistry with Laboratory*

***Additional courses for the B.S. degree in physics with option in biophysics:***

- PHYS 302 *Intermediate Electrodynamics*
- PHYS 311/312 *Introduction to Quantum Physics I and II*
- PHYS 425 *Statistical and Thermal Physics*
- BIOS 201/202 *Introductory Biology*
- BIOS 301 *Biochemistry*
- CHEM 121/122 *General Chemistry with Laboratory* or CHEM 151/152 *Honors Chemistry with Laboratory*
- CHEM 211/212 *Organic Chemistry*
- CHEM 215 *Organic Chemistry Laboratory*

***Additional courses for B.S. degree in physics with option in computational physics:***

- PHYS 302 *Intermediate Electrodynamics*
- PHYS 311/312 *Introduction to Quantum Physics I and II*
- PHYS 416 *Computational Physics*
- PHYS 425 *Statistical and Thermal Physics*
- PHYS 491/492 *Undergraduate Research*
- PHYS 493/494 *Undergraduate Research Seminar*  
(The Undergraduate Research course and seminar must be taken concurrently.)
- MATH 381 *Introduction to Partial Differential Equations* and MATH 382 *Complex Analysis*
- or CAAM 335 *Matrix Analysis* and CAAM 336 *Differential Equations in Science and Engineering*
- CAAM 210 or 211 *Introduction to Engineering Computation*
- CAAM 353 *Computational Numerical Analysis*
- CAAM 420/421 *Computational Science I and II*
- CHEM 121 *General Chemistry with Laboratory* or CHEM 151 *Honors Chemistry with Laboratory*

***Additional courses for the B.S. degree in astrophysics:***

- PHYS 302 *Intermediate Electrodynamics*
- PHYS 311 *Introduction to Quantum Physics I*
- PHYS 425 *Statistical and Thermal Physics*
- ASTR 230 *Astronomy Laboratory*
- ASTR 350/360 *Introduction to Astrophysics—Stars, Galaxies, and Cosmology*
- 3 courses from:  
ASTR 450 *Experimental Space Science*
- ASTR 451 *Solar and Stellar Astrophysics*

ASTR 452 <i>Galaxies and Cosmology</i>	(The Undergraduate Research course and seminar must be taken concurrently.)
ASTR 470 <i>Solar System Physics</i>	NSCI 230 <i>Computation in Natural Science</i> or CAAM 210 or 211
PHYS 312 <i>Introduction to Quantum Physics II</i>	<i>Introduction to Engineering Computation</i>
PHYS 480 <i>Introduction to Plasma Physics</i>	CAAM 336 <i>Differential Equations in Science and Engineering</i>
PHYS 491/492 <i>Undergraduate Research</i>	CHEM 121 <i>General Chemistry with Laboratory</i>
PHYS 493/494 <i>Undergraduate Research Seminar</i>	

***Additional courses for the B.A. degree in physics:***

PHYS 302 <i>Intermediate Electrodynamics</i>	1 additional PHYS or ASTR course (3 credit hours) at 400 level
PHYS 311 <i>Introduction to Quantum Physics I</i>	NSCI 230 <i>Computation in Natural Science</i> or CAAM 210 or 211
PHYS 331 <i>Junior Physics Laboratory I</i>	<i>Introduction to Engineering Computation</i> or 1 MATH or CAAM course (3 credit hours) at or above 300 level
PHYS 425 <i>Statistical and Thermal Physics</i>	

***Additional courses for the B.A. degree in astronomy:***

PHYS 331 <i>Junior Physics Laboratory I</i>	ASTR 230 <i>Astronomy Laboratory</i>
or	ASTR 350/360 <i>Introduction to Astrophysics—Stars, Galaxies, and Cosmology</i>
NSCI 230 <i>Computation in Natural Science</i>	ASTR 470 <i>Solar System Physics</i>
PHYS 425 <i>Statistical and Thermal Physics</i>	1 of: ASTR 430 <i>Teaching Astronomy Laboratory</i> , ASTR 450 <i>Experimental Space Science</i> , or PHYS 443 <i>Atmospheric Science</i>
or	
CHEM 311 <i>Physical Chemistry</i>	
ASTR 100 <i>Exploring the Cosmos</i>	

***Additional courses for the B.S. degree in chemical physics:***

CHEM 121/122 <i>General Chemistry</i> or CHEM 151/152 <i>Honors Chemistry with Laboratory</i>	PHYS 302 <i>Intermediate Electrodynamics</i>
CHEM 211 <i>Organic Chemistry</i>	2 of: PHYS 311 or 312 <i>Introduction to Quantum Physics I or II</i> , CHEM 415 <i>Chemical Kinetics and Dynamics</i> , and CHEM 430 <i>Quantum Chemistry</i>
CHEM 212 <i>Organic Chemistry</i>	
or	
CHEM 360 <i>Inorganic Chemistry</i>	
CHEM 311/312 <i>Physical Chemistry</i>	

6 credit hours from:

CHEM 215 *Organic Chemistry Laboratory*, CHEM 351 or 352 *Introductory Module in Experimental Chemistry*, CHEM 373–391, CHEM 435 *Advanced Module in Chemistry*, and PHYS 331 or 332 *Junior Physics Laboratory I or II*; up to 2 hours of CHEM 491 *Research for Undergraduates* or PHYS 491/492 *Undergraduate Research* may be counted toward this requirement.

6 credit hours from: NSCI 230 *Computation in Natural Science*, CAAM 210, or 211 *Introduction to Engineering Computation*, and MATH, or CAAM courses at or above 300 level

## Requirements for Advanced Degrees

For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (pages 65–70). More detailed information on courses and requirements is available from the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

The master of science is a research degree, normally undertaken as the first stage of doctoral study. The M.S. requires at least 30 credit hours of approved graduate-level studies, including a thesis performed under the direction of a departmental faculty member.

To be eligible for the Ph.D. degree, graduate students must demonstrate to the department their ability to engage in advanced research. This is normally accomplished by successfully completing the work for the M.S. Students must also complete 60 credit hours of approved graduate-level study at Rice and produce a research thesis under the direction of a departmental faculty member. At least two years of graduate study are required for the Ph.D.

**See ASTR and PHYS in the Courses of Instruction section.**