UW Students take many paths to their physics degree. In 2014-15, fewer than 10% of graduates took Physics 121 in their first quarter at UW and then graduated 4 years later. Below are several options to help you build a path to your degree depending on your preparation, desired degree option (or track) and post-graduation goals. Note these paths only include courses directly related to your physics degree – you still need to fit in your college distribution requirements.

Standard 4-year Path to a Comprehensive Option in Physics

Legend: BOLD= required; red = lab; green = specific electives, *italics* = choose one or more

Standard 4 Yr Path – Comprehensive, headed for Physics Grad School

NB: The official physics degree requirements are done at end of Junior year. The fourth year should be spent taking more advanced courses to prepare for graduate school or other career goals.

The Sophomore/Junior years allows a degree in 2 yrs after completing 121-2-3 and most distribution requirements at community college. The extra year should be included if you are headed for graduate school.

Some classes on this chart are optional (in plain black type), but are recommended for grad school.

Comprehensive Track – 4 Year Plan

Year		Autumn	Winter	Spring
Freshman		**121** or **121H** Math **124/134**	**122** or **122H** Math **125/135**	**123** or **123H** Math **126/136**
Sophomore		**224** **227** 231 (lab) 217 Math *307 a/o 308*	**225** **228** **294** **334** (lab) *Math 324*	**226** *335* (lab) another math (opt)
Junior		**321** **324** *331* or *434* cognate subj	**322** *325* research cognate subj	*323* *329* research
Senior	REU	*328* 422 *433* 485/494 special topics research	423 *431* 429 486/495 special topics research	421 *432* 487/496 special topics research

Last Update 21 April 2015

Modifications if start Phys 121 in Winter or Spring:
If start Phys 121 in Winter, can take 123 over the summer, and then continue from Sophomore year above. If start 121 in spring, take 122 over the summer, and then follow the "start 123 in autumn" path below.

Arrive from CC needing 123 in Autumn;

Heading to Grad School in 3 years – Comprehensive

Option 1: No Summers

Year	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring
Year 1	(123)	**123** **224** Math **126**	**294** **334** Math *307* or *308*	**227** *335* Math *324*
Year 2		**321** *331* or *434* cognate sci	**225** **228** **322** research	**226** *323* *329* research
Year 3	REU	**324** *328* *433* cognate sci 485/494 special topics research	*325* 423 *431* 486/495 special topics research	421 *432* 487/496 special topics research

- Option 2: 225/228 in Summer (allows more advanced classes)

Year	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring
Sophomore	(123)	**123** **224** **Math 126**	**294** **334** **Math** *307* or *308*	**227** *335* **Math** *324*
Junior	**225** **228**	**321** **324** cognate subj	**322** *325* cognate subj research	**226** *323* a/o *329* research
Senior	REU	*328* 422 *433* 485/494 special topics research	423 *431* 429 486/495 special topics research	421 *432* 487/496 special topics research

3 Year Path, Comprehensive. Not heading for grad school

Minimal major, No summers

Year		Autumn	Winter	Spring
Year 1		**121 or 121H** Math **124**	**122 or 122H** Math **125**	**123 or 123H** Math **126**
Year 2		**224** **227** ***Math from menu***	**225** **228** **294** **334** (lab) ***Math from menu***	**226** *335* (lab) *329*
Year 3		**321** **324** *328* *331* or *434*	**322** *325* cognate subj. research/486	*323* cognate subj research/487

3 Year Path, Not heading for grad school

Minimal major, Including Summer to spread things out

Year		Autumn	Winter	Spring
Year 1		**121** Math **124**	**122** Math **125**	**123** Math **126**
Year 2	**334**	**224** **227** ***Math from menu***	**225** **228** **294** ***Math from menu***	**321** *335* (lab)
Year 3	**322** **324**	*328* **226** *331* or *434*	*325* *431* research/486	*323 or 329* cognate subj research/487

Arrive from Community College needing 122 or 123
Graduate in 2 years

Not recommended if heading for graduate school in physics. *Not recommended* if still need multiple distribution requirements.

- Arrive in autumn, needing Phys 123

Comprehensive Degree Option. Start with 123

Year	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring
Year 1		**123** **224** Math **126**	**294** **334** Math *307/8*	**227** *335* Math *324* cognate sci
Year 2	**225** **228**	**321** **324** *331* or *434* cognate sci	**322** *325* a/o 423 *431* research	**226** *323* *329* research

- Arrive in autumn, needing Phys 122

Year	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring
Year 1		**122** 217 Math **126**	**123** **294** Math *307/8*	**224** **227** Math *324*
Year 2	**225** **228** *431*	**321** **324** *331* a/o *328* cognate sci	**322** *325* a/o 423 **334** cognate sci research/486	**226** *323* a/o *329* *432* or *335* research/487

Applied Physics Track
2 Year Degree after Community College. Start with 122 or 123

Year		Autumn	Winter	Spring
Year 1		**122/123** ***Math 126 or Menu***	**(123)** **294** **AMath 301** **334** (lab)	**224** **227** *335*
Year 2	**225** ***Math*** ***Menu***	*226 or 324* **321** **231** (lab) *331* or *434*	**322** ***Math Menu*** *Elective* 486/research	*226, 323* a/o *329* *1 or 2 Electives* 487/research

Applied Physics Track

4 Year Plan

Year		Autumn	Winter	Spring
Freshman		**121** or **121H** Math **124/134**	**122** or **122H** Math **125/135**	**123** or **123H** Math **126/136**
Sophomore		**224** **227** **231** (lab) ***Math Menu***	**225** **294** **334** (lab) ***228 or Math Menu***	*226 or 329* *Elective* *335* **AMath 301**
Junior		**321** *331* or *434* *Elective (226, 324)* ***Math Menu***	**322** *Elective* research cognate subj	*Elective (226, 323, 329)* research
Senior	REU	phys/cognate subj. *433* 485/496 special topics research	phys/cognate subj. *431* 486/497 special topics research	phys/cognate subj. *432* 487/498 special topics research

Applied Physics Track
3 Year Plan, no summers

Year		Autumn	Winter	Spring
Year 1		**121** or **121H** Math **124/134**	**122** or **122H** Math **125/135**	**123** or **123H** Math **126/136**
Year 2		**224** **227** **231** (lab) ***Math Menu***	**225** **294** **334** (lab) ***228 or Math Menu***	*Elective (226, 329)* *335* **AMath 301**
Year 3		**321** *331* or *434* *Elective (226, 324)* ***Math Menu***	**322** *Elective* *431* 486/497 research	*Elective (226, 323, 329)* *432* 487/498 research

Biophysics Track

Standard 4 Yr Path – Biophysics Degree

Some classes on here are optional, but recommended for grad school

		Autumn	Winter	Spring
Freshman		**121** or **121H** Chem **14x** Math **124/134**	**122** or **122H** Chem **15x** Math **125/135**	**123** or **123H** Chem **16x** Math **126/136**
Sophomore		**224** **227** ***Math from Menu*** Bio **180**	**225** **228** **294** Bio **200**	*226 or 329* **(321)*** *Bio 220* Add. math
Junior	(**322**)	**(321)** **324** **(328)** *Chem 223/237*	**(322)** *325* **334** (**429**) *Chem 224/238* research	*226, 323 or 329* Add'l Bio/Chem research
Senior	REU	**328** Add. Bio/Chem 434 485/496 special topics research	Add. Bio/Chem 423 a/o 431 (**429**) 486/497 research	Add. Bio/Chem 421 a/o 432 487/498 special topics research

*If you can take 322 in the summer, it might be easier to take 321/322 Sp/Su than taking 321, 324 and organic chemistry simultaneously in the fall. This also makes it easier to take 429 in junior year.

Minimum Biophysics Degree 3 year plan

		Autumn	Winter	Spring
Year 1		**121** or **121H** Chem **14x** Math **124/134**	**122** or **122H** Chem **15x** Math **125/135**	**123** or **123H** Chem **16x** Math **126/136**
Year 2		**224** **227** ***Math from Menu*** Bio **180**	**225** **228** **294** Bio **200**	*226 or 329* **(321)*** *Add'l Bio/Chem*
Year 3	(**322**)	**(321)** **324** **328**	**(322)** **334** **429** research	*226, 323 or 329* *Add'l Bio/Chem* research

Teaching Preparation Track

4-year Plan. Includes courses recommended for breadth, but not required for graduation

Year		Autumn	Winter	Spring
Freshman		**121** or **121H** Math **124/134**	**122** or **122H** Math **125/135**	**123** or **123H** Math **126/136**
Sophomore		**224** **227** 217 ***Math Menu***	**225** **294** **334** (lab) **228**	**226** *329* *335* ***Math Menu***
Junior		**321** **324** *331* or *434*	**322** *325* Intro. Chem/Bio	*323* Intro. Chem/Bio
Senior	REU	**407** *328* 422 a/o *433* 485/496 Other Sci a/o Education teaching	**408** 423 a/o *431* 486/497 Other Sci a/o Education teaching/research	**409** 421 a/o *432* 487/498 Other Sci a/o Education teaching/research

Teaching Preparation Track

3-year Plan. Includes some courses recommended for breadth, but not required for graduation

Year		Autumn	Winter	Spring
Year 1		**121** or **121H** Math **124/134**	**122** or **122H** Math **125/135**	**123** or **123H** Math **126/136**
Year 2	(224)	**224** **227** 217 ***Math Menu***	**225** **294** **334** (lab) **228**	**226** **321** *335* a/o ***Math Menu***
Year 3	**322** **324**	**407** (226) *328* *331* or *434* ***teaching***	**408** *325* Intro. Chem/Bio teaching/research	**409** *323* Intro. Chem/Bio Teaching/research