

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Physics & Physical Oceanography- BS
129 Credits Total

FALL 2026-SPRING 2027

ABOUT THE PHYSICS AND PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY DEGREE:

The BS in Physics and Physical Oceanography program is unique in the entire United States. It is jointly offered by the Physics Department and the Graduate School of Oceanography. Students in this program are optimally prepared for graduate studies in oceanography.

STEP 1:

Major Requirements:

| Course | Semester | Credits | Grade |
|--------------|----------|---------|-------|
| PHY 203/273* | | 4 | |
| PHY 204/274* | | 4 | |
| PHY 205/275* | | 4 | |
| PHY 306 | | 3 | |
| PHY 322 | | 3 | |
| PHY 331 | | 3 | |
| PHY 381 | | 3 | |
| PHY 382 | | 3 | |
| PHY 401 | | 1 | |
| PHY 410 | | 3 | |
| PHY 420 | | 3 | |
| PHY 452 | | 3 | |
| PHY 451 | | 3 | |
| PHY 483† | | 3 | |
| PHY 484† | | 3 | |
| MTH 4____ | | 3 | |

Additional Major Requirements:

| Course | Semester | Credits | Grade |
|-----------------|----------|---------|-------|
| MTH 141* | | 4 | |
| MTH 142* | | 4 | |
| MTH 215 | | 3 | |
| MTH 243* | | 3 | |
| MTH 244 | | 3 | |
| CHM 101*/102 | | 4 | |
| CSC 201* or 211 | | 4 | |
| OCG 110* | | 3 | |
| OCG 123G* | | 4 | |
| OCG 501 | | 3 | |
| OCG 510 | | 3 | |
| MCE 354 | | 3 | |

Free elective credits

(to meet the 129 credits required for graduation):

| Course | Credits | Course | Credits |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|
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† Senior physics research project (PHY 483/484) will be taken at the Graduate School of Oceanography under the supervision of a GSO faculty member.

It is recommended that students planning to attend an oceanography graduate school take PHY 520: Classical Dynamics. Students wishing to keep open the options of physics at the graduate level should take PHY 452: Quantum Mechanics.

*Course counts for general education credit

Please note: Both major and cumulative GPA must be 2.00 or higher in order to graduate.

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GENERAL EDUCATION GUIDELINES: General education is 40 credits. Each of the twelve outcomes (A1-D1) must be met by at least 3 credits. A single course may meet more than one outcome, but cannot be double counted towards the 40 credit total. At least one course must be a Grand Challenge (G). No more than twelve credits can have the same course code (note- HPR courses may have more than 12 credits). General education courses may also be used to meet requirements of the major or minor when appropriate.

STEP 2:

| General Education Credit Count | | | |
|---|-----|--------|-----|
| At least 40 credits, no more than 12 credits with the same course code. | | | |
| Course | Cr. | Course | Cr. |
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| Total Gen Ed credits | | | 40 |

STEP 3:

| General Education Outcome Audit | |
|--|--------|
| | Course |
| KNOWLEDGE | |
| A1. STEM | |
| A2. Social & Behavioral Sciences | |
| A3. Humanities | |
| A4. Arts & Design | |
| COMPETENCIES | |
| B1. Write effectively | |
| B2. Communicate effectively | |
| B3. Mathematical, statistical, or computational strategies | |
| B4. Information literacy | |
| RESPONSIBILITIES | |
| C1. Civic knowledge & responsibilities | |
| C2. Global responsibilities | |
| C3. Diversity and Inclusion | |
| INTEGRATE & APPLY | |
| D1. Ability to synthesize | |
| GRAND CHALLENGE | |
| G. Check that at least one course of your 40 credits is an approved "G" course | |

SEE OPPOSITE SIDE FOR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

NOTE: This worksheet sheet is a snapshot of your entire curriculum. You must work with your advisor each term to discuss requirements to keep you on course for timely progress to complete this major. Official requirements for graduation are listed in the University Catalog.

Please note: Both major and cumulative GPA must be 2.00 or higher in order to graduate.