The major in Physics and Geosciences applies fundamental physical principles to the study of Earth and other planetary bodies at a level that is more intensive than in the Physics or Earth and Planetary Sciences majors individually. Topics of interest range from atmosphere, ocean, and climate dynamics to physics of the solid Earth or of other planetary bodies.

**PREREQUISITES**

The prerequisites for the major include MATH 120 or its equivalent, PHYS 170, 171 or another introductory physics sequence, the associated physics laboratory sequence PHYS 205L, 206L, and a course in ordinary differential equations chosen from ENAS 194, MATH 246, or PHYS 301.

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR**

Beyond the prerequisites, the major requires a minimum of twelve term courses, including the senior project. At least four of these courses must be in Physics and at least six must be in Earth and Planetary Sciences. Students complete a two- or three-term advanced physics sequence: either PHYS 401 and 402, or PHYS 410, 420, and 430. They must also take basic quantum mechanics (PHYS 439 or PHYS 440) and one elective numbered PHYS 320 or above. Required courses in Earth and Planetary Sciences include one introductory course numbered EPS 100–150, with any accompanying laboratory; one elective numbered EPS 200 or above; and four advanced electives from one of two Earth and Planetary Sciences tracks: the Atmosphere, Ocean, and Climate track or the Solid Earth Science track. A list of suggested electives is available from the office of the director of undergraduate studies (DUS) in Earth and Planetary Sciences or on the EPS department website. No elective course may count toward multiple requirements for the major.

**Credit/D/Fail**

No course taken Credit/D/Fail may be counted toward the Physics and Geosciences major, including prerequisites.

**SENIOR REQUIREMENT**

Students complete a two-term senior project on a topic that is appropriate for the combined major and acceptable to both the Physics and Earth and Planetary Sciences departments. The project is undertaken in either PHYS 471, 472 or EPS 490, EPS 491. In addition, students must present an oral report on their project to each department.

**ADVISING**

Interested students should consult the directors of undergraduate studies in Physics and in Earth and Planetary Sciences.

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR**

**Prerequisites**

MATH 120 or equivalent; PHYS 170, 171 or above; PHYS 205L, 206L; ENAS 194, MATH 246, or PHYS 301

**Number of courses**

At least 12 courses beyond prereqs, incl senior req

**Specific courses required**

PHYS 401 and 402, or PHYS 410, 420, and 430; PHYS 439 or PHYS 440

**Distribution of courses**

1 elective numbered PHYS 320 or above; 1 intro course in EPS, with lab, as specified; 1 elective course numbered EPS 200 or above; 4 advanced courses in a EPS track, as specified

**Senior requirement**

Senior project in PHYS 471, 472 or EPS 490, EPS 491, on topic acceptable to both depts; oral report on project to both depts or equivalent