

## Sample schedule for BS in astronomy

This sample schedule is for the case that fall of year 1 is an even year. This distinction is necessary because some of the upper-level astronomy courses are offered every other year. You can find the course offerings for future semesters here: <http://physics.gmu.edu/~joe/course-schedule.pdf>

Number of credits in parentheses.

Courses designated “Elective” are entirely at the student's discretion.

At least 45 credits must be upper-level (300 or above). This sample schedule satisfies this requirement, assuming at least one elective is upper-level. Beyond the core astronomy, physics, and math courses, an additional 21 credits of astronomy and physics are required. In this sample schedule, these are ASTR 403, 404, 408, (420 or 480) and PHYS 306, 402, 428. There are other possibilities.

### Fall of Year 1 (13)

MATH 113	(4)	Calculus I
ENGH 101	(3)	Composition
Mason Core	(3)	
Mason Core	(3)	

### Spring of Year 1 (15)

ASTR 124	(1)	Introduction to Observational Astronomy
MATH 114	(4)	Calculus II
PHYS 160	(3)	Physics I
PHYS 161	(1)	Physics I lab
Mason Core	(3)	
Mason Core	(3)	

### Fall of Year 2 (16)

MATH 213	(3)	Calculus III
PHYS 260	(3)	Physics II
PHYS 261	(1)	Physics II lab
PHYS 251	(3)	Intro to Computer Techniques in Physics (satisfies Mason Core IT)
Mason Core	(3)	
Elective	(3)	

### Spring of Year 2 (15)

MATH 214	(3)	Differential Equations
PHYS 262	(3)	Physics III
ASTR 210	(3)	Introduction to Astrophysics
Mason Core	(3)	
Elective	(3)	

**Fall of Year 3 (15)**

ASTR 328 (3) Stars  
PHYS 301 (3) Analytical Methods of Physics  
PHYS 303 (3) Classical Mechanics  
PHYS 305 (3) Electromagnetic Theory  
ENGH 302 (3) Advanced Composition

**Spring of Year 3 (15)**

ASTR 404 (3) Galaxies and Cosmology  
PHYS 306 (3) Wave Motion and Electromagnetic Radiation  
PHYS 402 (3) Quantum Mechanics  
Elective (3)  
Elective (3)

**Fall of Year 4 (16)**

ASTR 401 (3) Computer Simulation in Astronomy  
ASTR 402 (4) Methods of Observational Astronomy  
ASTR 403 (3) Planetary Science  
ASTR 408 (3) Senior Research  
Elective (3)

**Spring of Year 4 (15)**

PHYS 428 (3) Relativity  
ASTR 420 or 480 (3) Exoplanets or The Interstellar Medium  
Elective (3)  
Elective (3)  
Elective (3)