Sample schedule for BS in astronomy starting with precalculus

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.)

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.

Take at least 2 of ASTR 403, 404, 420, 480. In this sample schedule, these are ASTR 403 and (420 or 480). Other options are possible (e.g. replace ASTR 403 with an elective in fall of year 4 and take both ASTR 420 and 480 in spring of year 4).

Beyond the core astronomy, physics, and math courses, an additional 15 credits of astronomy and physics are required. In this sample schedule, these are ASTR 404, 408 and PHYS 306, 402, 428. There are other possibilities.

PHYS 122 is not required. It is included to bring the total credit number to 120.

Fall of Year 1 (14)

MATH 105	(4)	Precalculus Mathematics
ENGH 101	(3)	Composition
Mason Core	(3)	
Mason Core	(3)	
PHYS 122	(1)	Inside Relativity

Spring of Year 1 (14)

ASTR 124	(1)	Introduction to Observational Astronomy
MATH 113	(4)	Calculus I
Mason Core	(3)	
Mason Core	(3)	
Mason Core	(3)	

Fall of Year 2 (17)

MATH 114	(4)	Calculus II
PHYS 160	(3)	Physics I
PHYS 161	(1)	Physics I lab
Mason Core	(3)	
Elective	(3)	
Elective	(3)	

Spring of Year 2 (16)

MATH 213	(3)	Calculus III
PHYS 251	(3)	Intro to Computer Techniques in Physics (satisfies Mason Core IT)
PHYS 260	(3)	Physics II
PHYS 261	(1)	Physics II lab
ASTR 210	(3)	Introduction to Astrophysics
Elective	(3)	

Fall of Year 3 (15)

ASTR 328	(3)	Stars
MATH 214	(3)	Differential Equations
PHYS 301	(3)	Analytical Methods of Physics
PHYS 303	(3)	Classical Mechanics
PHYS 305	(3)	Electromagnetic Theory

Spring of Year 3 (15)

ASTR 404	(3)	Galaxies and Cosmology
PHYS 306	(3)	Wave Motion and Electromagnetic Radiation
PHYS 308	(3)	Modern Physics
PHYS 402	(3)	Quantum Mechanics
ENGH 302	(3)	Advanced Composition

Fall of Year 4 (14)

ASTR 401	(3)	Computer Simulation in Astronomy
ASTR 402	(4)	Methods of Observational Astronomy
ASTR 403	(3)	Planetary Science
ASTR 408	(3)	Senior Research
PHYS 416	(1)	Special Topics in Modern Physics

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)	