

Sample schedule for BS in astronomy starting with Calc II

This sample schedule is for the case that fall of year 1 is an odd 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 404 and 420. Other options are possible (e.g. ASTR 403 in fall of year 3).

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 408, 480 and PHYS 306, 402, 428. There are other possibilities.

Fall of Year 1 (14)

MATH 114	(4)	Calculus II
PHYS 160	(3)	Physics I
PHYS 161	(1)	Physics I lab
ENGH 101	(3)	Composition
Mason Core	(3)	

Spring of Year 1 (14)

ASTR 124	(1)	Introduction to Observational Astronomy
ASTR 210	(3)	Introduction to Astrophysics
MATH 213	(3)	Calculus III
PHYS 260	(3)	Physics II
PHYS 261	(1)	Physics II lab
Mason Core	(3)	

Fall of Year 2 (15)

ASTR 328	(3)	Stars
MATH 214	(3)	Differential Equations
PHYS 251	(3)	Intro to Computer Techniques in Physics (satisfies Mason Core IT)
Mason Core	(3)	
Mason Core	(3)	

Spring of Year 2 (15)

ASTR 404	(3)	Galaxies and Cosmology
PHYS 308	(3)	Modern Physics
Mason Core	(3)	
Mason Core	(3)	
Elective	(3)	

Fall of Year 3 (15)

ASTR 401	(3)	Computer Simulation in Astronomy
PHYS 301	(3)	Analytical Methods of Physics
PHYS 303	(3)	Classical Mechanics
PHYS 305	(3)	Electromagnetic Theory
Elective		

Spring of Year 3 (15)

ASTR 420	(3)	Exoplanets
ASTR 480	(3)	The Interstellar Medium
PHYS 306	(3)	Wave Motion and Electromagnetic Radiation
PHYS 402	(3)	Quantum Mechanics
Elective	(3)	

Fall of Year 4 (17)

ASTR 402	(4)	Methods of Observational Astronomy
PHYS 416	(1)	Special Topics in Modern Physics
ENGH 302	(3)	Advanced Composition
Elective	(3)	
Elective	(3)	
Elective	(3)	

Spring of Year 4 (15)

ASTR 408	(3)	Senior Research
PHYS 428	(3)	Relativity
Elective	(3)	
Elective	(3)	
Elective	(3)	