

# Natural Sciences BA with Physics Concentration

---

## Overview

The Natural Sciences program provides students more breadth than traditional science programs.

Natural Sciences students **must select one of the following concentrations:**

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Physics

Many exciting areas of scientific inquiry, such as the neurosciences, environmental sciences, and biophysical sciences, require general science backgrounds that encompass multiple science disciplines. The **Bachelor of Arts in Natural Sciences with a concentration in Physics** helps students to explore both domestic and international culture through the foreign language and upper-level liberal arts course requirements.

Students planning graduate study or technical careers in one of these interdisciplinary areas, as well as students preparing for careers in health sciences, legal professions, science education, science-related business, or social service might be well served by the BA in Natural Sciences. This program of study can prepare students for graduate study in a traditional science discipline, and many Natural Sciences graduates have found employment in technical fields.

Students in this program can apply to our Professional Science Master's (PSM) programs in Bioinnovation, Biotechnology and Scientific Writing. Students interested in these PSM programs can apply for admission to the +1 BA/PSM accelerated options for completion of these degrees. PSM programs provide specific curricula and training for workforce entry or re-entry.

**Campus Location:** Main

**Program Code:** ST-NATS-BA

## Distinction in Major

To graduate with distinction in this major, a student must satisfy the following criteria:

- achieve a minimum 3.33 GPA in major or
- achieve a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA and successfully complete six credits of internship coursework (SCTC 1385, SCTC 2385, or SCTC 3185) with approval by the program director.

## Accelerated Programs

Accelerated programs provide a pathway for students to pursue both an undergraduate degree and an advanced degree in a shorter amount of time. Below is a list of available accelerated programs for students in the BA in Natural Sciences.

- BA or BS in Natural Sciences / PSM in Scientific Writing
- BA or BS in Natural Sciences / PSM in Bioinnovation
- BA or BS in Natural Sciences / PSM in Biotechnology
- BA in Natural Sciences / MEd in Middle Grades Education with a Concentration in Science
- BA in Natural Sciences / MEd in Middle Grades Education with a Concentration in Science and Language Arts

## Undergraduate Contact Information

Susan Varnum, Program Director and Professor of Chemistry  
Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs and Science Education  
College of Science and Technology  
Gladfelter Hall, Room 629  
215-204-4073  
susan.varnum@temple.edu

Learn more about the Bachelor of Arts in Natural Sciences.

*These requirements are for students who matriculated in academic year 2023-2024. Students who matriculated prior to fall 2023 should refer to the Archives to view the requirements for their Bulletin year.*

## Bachelor of Arts Requirements

### Summary of Requirements for the Degree

#### 1. University Requirements (123 total s.h.)

- Students must complete all University requirements including those listed below.
- All undergraduate students must complete at least two writing-intensive courses for a total of at least six credits at Temple as part of their major. The specific writing-intensive course options for this major are:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
SCTC 2396	Writing for Science and Technology	3
SCTC 4396	Paradigms of Scientific Knowledge: Knowledge Discovery from Scientific Data	3

- Students must complete the General Education (GenEd) requirements.
  - See the General Education section of the *Undergraduate Bulletin* for the GenEd curriculum.
  - Students who complete CST majors receive a waiver for 2 Science & Technology (GS) and 1 Quantitative Literacy (GQ) GenEd courses.
- Students must satisfy general Temple University residency requirements.

#### 2. College Requirements

- A minimum of 90 total credits within the College of Science & Technology (CST), the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), and/or the College of Engineering (ENG).
  - A minimum of 45 of these credits must be upper-level (courses numbered 2000 and above).
  - A minimum of 6 of these credits must be upper-level (courses numbered 2000 and above) CLA credits.
- Successful completion or waiver from the second level of a foreign language.
- Complete a one-credit first-year or transfer seminar.
  - SCTC 1001 CST First Year Seminar for every entering first-year CST student.
  - SCTC 2001 CST Transfer Seminar for every entering transfer CST student.

#### 3. Major Requirements for Bachelor of Arts (67-72 s.h.)

At least 7 courses required for the major must be completed at Temple. At least 2 courses in the chosen concentration must be completed at Temple.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Biology</b>		
Select one of the following:		4
BIOL 1011	General Biology I (F)	
BIOL 1111 or BIOL 1911	Introduction to Organismal Biology Honors Introduction to Organismal Biology	
Select one of the following:		4
BIOL 1012	General Biology II (S)	
BIOL 1112 or BIOL 1912	Introduction to Biomolecules, Cells and Genomes Honors Introduction to Biomolecules, Cells and Genomes	
BIOL 2112 or BIOL 2912	Introduction to Cellular and Molecular Biology Honors Introduction to Cellular and Molecular Biology	
<b>Chemistry</b>		
Select one of the following:		4
CHEM 1021 & CHEM 1023	Introduction to Chemistry I and Introduction to Chemistry Laboratory I	
CHEM 1031 & CHEM 1033	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry Laboratory I	
CHEM 1951 & CHEM 1953	Honors General Chemical Science I and Honors Chemical Science Laboratory I (F)	
Select one of the following:		4
CHEM 1022 & CHEM 1024	Introduction to Chemistry II and Introduction to Chemistry Laboratory II	
CHEM 1032 & CHEM 1034	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry Laboratory II	

CHEM 1952 & CHEM 1954	Honors General Chemical Science II and Honors Chemical Science Laboratory II (S)	
<b>College of Science &amp; Technology</b>		
SCTC 1013	Elements of Data Science for the Physical and Life Sciences	3
Select one of the following: <sup>1</sup>		4
SCTC 1501	STEM Challenge: The World Around Us	
SCTC 1502	STEM Challenge: The World Within	
SCTC 2396	Writing for Science and Technology	3
SCTC 3001	History of Science	3
SCTC 4396	Paradigms of Scientific Knowledge: Knowledge Discovery from Scientific Data	3
<b>Computer Programming/Physics</b>		
Select one of the following: <sup>2</sup>		3-4
CIS 1051 or CIS 1951 or CIS 1057	Introduction to Problem Solving and Programming in Python Honors Introduction to Problem Solving and Programming in Python Computer Programming in C	
CIS 1052	Introduction to Web Technology and Programming	
CIS 1053	Programming in Matlab	
PHYS 1004	Introduction to Astronomy (F)	
SCTC 3312	Coding STEM Lessons <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Earth &amp; Environmental Science</b>		
EES 2001	Physical Geology	4
<b>Mathematics</b>		
MATH 1041 or MATH 1941	Calculus I Honors Calculus I	4
MATH 1042 or MATH 1942	Calculus II Honors Calculus II	4
<b>Physics</b>		
Select one of the following:		4
PHYS 1061 or PHYS 1961	Elementary Classical Physics I Honors Elementary Classical Physics I	
PHYS 2021 or PHYS 2921	General Physics I Honors General Physics I	
Select one of the following:		4
PHYS 1062 or PHYS 1962	Elementary Classical Physics II Honors Elementary Classical Physics II	
PHYS 2022 or PHYS 2922	General Physics II Honors General Physics II	
<b>Physics Electives</b>		
Four Upper-Level (2000+) Physics Electives <sup>4</sup>		12-16
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>67-72</b>

Code	Title	Credit Hours
(F) - Fall only course		
(S) - Spring only course		

1  
It is recommended that SCTC 1501 or SCTC 1502 be completed before SCTC 4396.

2  
It is recommended that students take CIS 1051 (or CIS 1951) as Python is the language of choice for most science programming needs.

3  
SCTC 3312 is a variable credit course and must be taken for 3 credits in order to meet the requirement for this program. Since the default credits are set to 1, students must contact cstcmp@temple.edu to have an advisor change the credits to 3.

4

MATH 2043 is approved to satisfy one of the four concentration electives. The remaining concentration electives must all be taken from within the Physics department and must satisfy elective criteria of the department. In the circumstance where a laboratory course is the complement of a lecture course, both must be completed to fulfill the requirement for ONE science elective.

## Suggested Academic Plan

### Bachelor of Arts in Natural Sciences with Concentration in Physics

#### Suggested Plan for New Students Starting in the 2023-2024 Academic Year

Year 1		Credit Hours
<b>Fall</b>		
Select one of the following:		4
CHEM 1021 & CHEM 1023	Introduction to Chemistry I and Introduction to Chemistry Laboratory I	
CHEM 1031 & CHEM 1033	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry Laboratory I	
CHEM 1951 & CHEM 1953	Honors General Chemical Science I and Honors Chemical Science Laboratory I (F)	
MATH 1041 or MATH 1941	Calculus I or Honors Calculus I	4
SCTC 1001	CST First Year Seminar	1
SCTC 1013	Elements of Data Science for the Physical and Life Sciences	3
Select one of the following: <sup>1</sup>		4
SCTC 1501	STEM Challenge: The World Around Us	
SCTC 1502	STEM Challenge: The World Within	
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Select one of the following:		4
CHEM 1022 & CHEM 1024	Introduction to Chemistry II and Introduction to Chemistry Laboratory II	
CHEM 1032 & CHEM 1034	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry Laboratory II	
CHEM 1952 & CHEM 1954	Honors General Chemical Science II and Honors Chemical Science Laboratory II (S)	
MATH 1042 or MATH 1942	Calculus II or Honors Calculus II	4
ENG 0802 or ENG 0812 or ENG 0902	Analytical Reading and Writing or Analytical Reading and Writing: ESL or Honors Writing About Literature	4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Select one of the following:		4
PHYS 1061 or PHYS 1961	Elementary Classical Physics I or Honors Elementary Classical Physics I	
PHYS 2021 or PHYS 2921	General Physics I or Honors General Physics I	
Select one of the following:		4
BIOL 1011	General Biology I (F)	
BIOL 1111 or BIOL 1911	Introduction to Organismal Biology or Honors Introduction to Organismal Biology	
IH 0851 or IH 0951	Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life or Honors Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life	3

Elective		4
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Select one of the following:		4
PHYS 1062 or PHYS 1961	Elementary Classical Physics II or Honors Elementary Classical Physics I	
PHYS 2022 or PHYS 2922	General Physics II or Honors General Physics II	
Select one of the following:		4
BIOL 1012	General Biology II (S)	
BIOL 1112 or BIOL 1912	Introduction to Biomolecules, Cells and Genomes or Honors Introduction to Biomolecules, Cells and Genomes	
BIOL 2112 or BIOL 2912	Introduction to Cellular and Molecular Biology or Honors Introduction to Cellular and Molecular Biology	
IH 0852 or IH 0952	Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good or Honors Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good	3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Elective		3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Year 3</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
EES 2001	Physical Geology	4
SCTC 3001	History of Science	3
Foreign Language 1001 - First Level		4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
SCTC 2396	Writing for Science and Technology	3
Physics Elective (2000+) <sup>2</sup>		3-4
Foreign Language 1002 - Second Level		4
GenEd Breadth Course		4-3
Elective		2
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Year 4</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
SCTC 4396	Paradigms of Scientific Knowledge: Knowledge Discovery from Scientific Data	3
Select one of the following:		3-4
CIS 1051 or CIS 1951 or CIS 1057	Introduction to Problem Solving and Programming in Python or Honors Introduction to Problem Solving and Programming in Python or Computer Programming in C	
CIS 1052	Introduction to Web Technology and Programming	
CIS 1053	Programming in Matlab	
PHYS 1004	Introduction to Astronomy (F)	
SCTC 3312	Coding STEM Lessons	
Physics Elective (2000+) <sup>2</sup>		4-3
Upper-level CLA Course (numbered 2000 and above)		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Physics Elective (2000+) <sup>2</sup>		3-4
Physics Elective (2000+) <sup>2</sup>		3-4
Upper-level CLA Course (numbered 2000 and above)		3
Elective		3

Elective	2-0
<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>123</b>

1

MATH 2043 is recommended as it is a prerequisite and/or co-requisite of most Physics Concentration Electives.

2

See Requirements for course options.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
-------------	--------------	---------------------

(F) - Fall only course

(S) - Spring only course