

Natural Sciences BS 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 Science in Natural Sciences with a concentration in Physics** prepares students for these trans-disciplinary programs.

With careful selection of laboratory-based courses, students are well prepared for entry-level science positions, and a variety of graduate programs both disciplinary and interdisciplinary. In particular, this is an excellent background for students wishing to enter graduate programs in education, forensic science, scientific writing or editing, or related science technology areas. Students may also select many of the courses required for a variety of pre-health and professional school programs.

In the Bachelor of Science degree, there is greater emphasis on depth of science content knowledge and application of knowledge compared with the Bachelor of Arts in Natural Sciences. The BS degree requires additional science coursework and offers more advanced study in natural sciences. This option provides more flexibility for students declaring the BS in Natural Sciences later in their undergraduate course of study as they can apply more disciplinary science courses to meet the additional science requirements of this degree.

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 BS/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-BS

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 BS 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

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 Science in Natural Sciences.

These requirements are for students who matriculated in academic year 2024-2025. Students who matriculated prior to fall 2024 should refer to the Archives to view the requirements for their Bulletin year.

Bachelor of Science 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).
- 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 Science (80-88 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
Biology		
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	
Chemistry		
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)

College of Science & Technology

SCTC 1013	Elements of Data Science for the Physical and Life Sciences	3
SCTC 1501	STEM Challenge: The World Around Us	4
SCTC 1502	STEM Challenge: The World Within	4
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

Computer Programming/Physics

Select two of the following: ¹ 6-8

CIS 1051	Introduction to Problem Solving and Programming in Python	
or CIS 1951	Honors Introduction to Problem Solving and Programming in Python	
or CIS 1057	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 ²	

Earth & Environmental Science

EES 2001	Physical Geology	4
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Mathematics

MATH 1041	Calculus I	4
or MATH 1941	Honors Calculus I	
MATH 1042	Calculus II	4
or MATH 1942	Honors Calculus II	

Physics

Select one of the following: 4

PHYS 1061	Elementary Classical Physics I	
or PHYS 1961	Honors Elementary Classical Physics I	
PHYS 2021	General Physics I	
or PHYS 2921	Honors General Physics I	

Select one of the following: 4

PHYS 1062	Elementary Classical Physics II	
or PHYS 1962	Honors Elementary Classical Physics II	
PHYS 2022	General Physics II	
or PHYS 2922	Honors General Physics II	

Science Electives

Four Upper-Level (2000+) Physics Electives ³ 12-16

Science Breadth Electives

Select one of the following: 3-4

ANTH 2705	Introduction to Evolutionary Anthropology	
ENST 2001	Environment and Society	
MATH 2031	Probability and Statistics	
PHIL 2157	Environmental Ethics	
SCTC 2100	Special Topics in Science and Technology	
SCTC 2101	Medical Imaging Physics - Seeing Through Ourselves	
SCTC 2102	SERC: Science of Energy Resource Consumption	

Select one of the following: 3-4

Any Upper-Level (2000+) CST Course		
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Total Credit Hours 80-88

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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(F) - Fall only course

(S) - Spring only course

- Students may **not** take both CIS 1051 and CIS 1057 as their two CIS electives. They must choose one and then make another choice from the list for their second elective.
- 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.
- 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 Science in Natural Sciences with Concentration in Physics

Suggested Plan for New Students Starting in the 2024-2025 Academic Year

Year 1		Credit Hours
Fall		
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
SCTC 1501	STEM Challenge: The World Around Us	4
Credit Hours		16
Spring		
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
SCTC 1502	STEM Challenge: The World Within	4
ENG 0802 or ENG 0812 or ENG 0902	Analytical Reading and Writing [GW] or Analytical Reading and Writing: ESL [GW] or Honors Analytical Reading and Writing [GW]	4
Credit Hours		16
Year 2		
Fall		
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 [GY] or Honors Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life [GY]	3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Credit Hours		14

Spring

Select one of the following:		4
PHYS 1062 or PHYS 1962	Elementary Classical Physics II or Honors Elementary Classical Physics II	
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 [GZ] or Honors Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good [GZ]	3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Elective		2
Credit Hours		16

Year 3

Fall		
EES 2001	Physical Geology	4
SCTC 3001	History of Science	3
Physics Elective (2000+) ¹		3-4
GenEd Breadth Course		3-4
Elective		2-0
Credit Hours		15

Spring

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	
SCTC 3312	Coding STEM Lessons (Must be taken for 3 credits)	
SCTC 2396	Writing for Science and Technology [WI]	3
Physics Elective (2000+) ²		3-4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Elective		3-1
Credit Hours		15

Year 4

Fall		
Select one of the following:		3-4
PHYS 1004	Introduction to Astronomy (F)	
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	

SCTC 3312	Coding STEM Lessons (Must be taken for 3 credits)	
Physics Elective (2000+) ²		3-4
Science Breadth Elective ²		3-4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Elective		3-0
Credit Hours		15
Spring		
SCTC 4396	Paradigms of Scientific Knowledge: Knowledge Discovery from Scientific Data [WI]	3
Physics Elective (2000+) ²		3-4
Science Breadth Elective ²		3-4
Elective		3
Elective		4-2
Credit Hours		16
Total Credit Hours		123

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.

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

Accelerated Programs

Students may opt to pursue an accelerated +1 program, enabling them to complete both a bachelor's degree and master's degree in less time than the traditional route.

The following accelerated programs may be of interest to students in the Natural Sciences BS:

College of Science and Technology

- Bioinnovation PSM
- Biotechnology PSM
- Scientific Writing PSM