Department of Physics

Bachelor of Arts

Physics

Bachelor of Science

- Physics
- Applied Physics

Minor

- Physics
- Applied Physics

Traditionally, physics majors have gone on to graduate work in physics, high school teaching, or employment in industrial or government laboratories. Other opportunities which have recently become interesting for physics graduates include atmospheric physics (including air pollution studies), geophysics, radiation safety, oceanography, astrophysics, technical administration, biophysics, computer science and medical instrumentation development.

The program for a bachelor of arts degree in physics provides basic knowledge in the main subject areas of physics as well as an opportunity for students to elect a considerable number of courses in other disciplines. This is a good choice for students planning careers in high school teaching. The bachelor of science program includes additional course work in physics and related fields which further prepares a student for employment or graduate work.

The Applied Physics option is designed to prepare students for direct employment in high-technology firms upon graduation. For traditional design tasks, high-technology firms typically hire applied physicists with a flexible and creative technical ability who can address a wide range of technical problems and develop an experimental system to attack problems. A solid understanding of theoretical physics across the curriculum is required and the ability to design, interface and control experimental apparatus. Because the tasks that applied physicists perform in the industrial environment are primarily experimental in nature, this option includes a number of laboratory courses in addition to the theory curriculum core: PHYS 150. Introductory Electronics; CSE 201. Computer Science I; PHYS 350. Data Acquisition and Control; PHYS 352. Advanced Electronics; and PHYS 430. Advanced Physics Laboratory. The courses in the applied physics option prepare students to function effectively in the computer-based experimental environment that they face in research and development, testing or process control.

Pre-engineering - The campus provides a pre-engineering program that enables students to complete the first two years of courses generic to engineering. Students may then transfer to an accredited engineering program of their choice. The following courses have been recommended as appropriate transfer courses:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 215</td>
<td>General Chemistry I: Atomic Structure and Chemical Bonding</td>
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<td>CHEM 216</td>
<td>General Chemistry II: Principles of Chemical Reactions</td>
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Departamental Honors

To be awarded departmental honors in physics a student must:

1. Achieve at least a 3.5 minimum grade point average in courses required for the major taken at California State University, San Bernardino and at least a 3.0 grade point average overall;
2. Conduct advanced research on a topic approved by a faculty member who will serve as project director;
3. Obtain written approval upon successful completion of the project from the project director and the chair, and present the results of the research to the department or at a research conference, and/or publish the results in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Current Faculty

Paul K. Dixon, Professor, Chair
B.S. 1983, University of Michigan
M.A. 1985, Ph.D. 1990, University of Chicago

Carol Hood, Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, 2011

Karen Kolehmainen, Professor
B.S. 1977, Michigan State University
Ph.D. 1983, State University of New York at Stony Brook

Paul A. Renteln, Professor
B.A. 1981, University of California, Berkeley
Ph.D. 1988, Harvard University

Javier Torner, Professor, Director
B.S. 1978, J.P.M. Mexico
M.S. 1972, Ph.D. 1985, Illinois Institute of Technology

Timothy D. Usher, Professor
B.S. 1981, Appalachian State University
Ph.D. 1990, University of South Carolina

Laura M. Woodney, Associate Professor
B.A. 1993, John Hopkins University
M.S. 1997, Ph.D. 2000, University of Maryland

Emeritus

Leo P. Connolly, Professor
Undergraduate Degrees

Bachelor of Arts
- Physics (p. 684)

Bachelor of Science
- Physics (p. 684)
- Applied Physics (p. 685)

Minors
- Physics (p. 685)
- Applied Physics (p. 685)

Astronomy Courses

ASTR 103. Descriptive Astronomy. 5 Units.
(GE=B3)
A brief history of the development of astronomy followed by modern
descriptions of our planetary system, stars, galaxies, models of the
universe and the possibilities of life in the universe. Discussions of
methods of extending knowledge of the universe. No previous background
in natural sciences is required. Four hours lecture and three hours
laboratory. Materials fee required. Formerly PHYS 103.

ASTR 311. A Cosmic Perspective of Earth. 5 Units.
Prerequisites: CHEM 100 and PHYS 100
Formation and evolution of the Earth, including its atmospheres, oceans
and internal structure, placed in the context of our solar system. A
comparative planetology course focusing on Earth and providing students
with an understanding of where Earth fits into our solar system by
introducing other solar system objects: planets, asteroids, comets, and
moons alike. Fulfills the Earth and Space Science requirement for liberal
studies. Four hours lecture and three hours laboratory. Materials fee
required. May not count for credit towards the major or minor in Physics.
Formerly PHYS 311.

Physics Courses

PHYS 100. Physics in the Modern World. 5 Units.
Prerequisites: completion of the general education requirement in
mathematics, category B1
(GE=B3)
Examination of physics and its contemporary use, including topics of:
mechanics, electricity, optics, sound, heat and radioactivity. This course is
intended for students with little background in science. Four hours lecture
and three hours laboratory. Materials fee required.

PHYS 121. Basic Concepts of Physics I. 5
Units.
Prerequisites: MATH 192 or 211, with a grade of C- or better
(GE=B3)
First course of a three-course sequence surveying the basic concepts
of physics, primarily for students entering fields relating to the biological
sciences. This course will cover the basic principles of mechanics. Four
hours lecture and three hours laboratory. Materials fee required.

PHYS 122. Basic Concepts of Physics II. 4
Units.
Prerequisites: PHYS 121
Continuation of PHYS 121. Topics include electricity, electric circuits and
magnetism. Three hours lecture and three hours laboratory. Materials fee
required.

PHYS 123. Basic Concepts of Physics III. 4
Units.
Prerequisites: PHYS 122
Continuation of PHYS 122. Topics include optics, waves and modern
physics. Three hours lecture and three hours laboratory. Materials fee
required.

PHYS 150. Introductory Electronics. 5 Units.
Prerequisites: a knowledge of trigonometry and exponential functions
Introduces electronics for the sciences and engineering. Assumes no
experience in electronics and can be taken prior to introductory physics.
Focus is on analog electronics: practical circuits, passive and active circuit
elements, signal conditioning, test and measurement skills, and a brief
introduction to digital electronics. Four hours lecture and three hours
laboratory. Materials fee required.

PHYS 221. General Physics I. 5 Units.
Prerequisites: MATH 211
Prerequisite/Corequisite: MATH 212
(GE=B3)
First course of a five-course sequence in introductory physics for
scientists and engineers. This sequence is intended for students with a
strong background in mathematics and the sciences. Mechanics. Four
hours lecture and three hours laboratory. Materials fee required.

PHYS 222. General Physics II. 5 Units.
Prerequisites: PHYS 221 and MATH 212. Recommended: MATH 213
Second course in a five-course sequence in introductory physics for
scientists and engineers. Electromagnetism. Four hours lecture and three
hours laboratory. Materials fee required.

PHYS 223. General Physics III. 5 Units.
Prerequisites: PHYS 222
Third course of a five-course sequence in introductory physics for
scientists and engineers. Waves and optics. Four hours lecture and three
hours laboratory. Materials fee required.

PHYS 224. General Physics IV. 3 Units.
Prerequisite/Corequisite: PHYS 223 or consent of instructor
Fourth course of a five-course sequence in introductory physics for
scientists and engineers. An introduction to thermodynamics, kinetic
theory and quantum mechanics. Three hours lecture.
PHYS 225. General Physics V. 3 Units.
Prerequisites: PHYS 224 or consent of instructor
Fifth course of a five-course sequence in introductory physics for scientists and engineers. An introduction to special relativity, the photon theory of electromagnetic radiation, atomic physics, nuclear physics, and elementary particle physics. Three hours lecture. Formerly PHYS 228.

PHYS 295A. Special Projects in Physics. 1 Unit.
Prerequisites: consent of instructor
Individual investigation, research, study or survey of selected problems. May be repeated for credit.

PHYS 295B. Special Projects in Physics. 2 Units.
Prerequisites: consent of instructor
Individual investigation, research, study or survey of selected problems. May be repeated for credit.

PHYS 303. Astronomy for Educators. 3 Units.
An introductory course in the modern description of our planetary system, stars, galaxies, and models of the universe followed by basic principles and ideas in space science. Three hours lecture.

PHYS 304. Physics in the Classroom. 2 Units.
Prerequisites: one college level course in chemistry or earth science
Basic concepts of physics as related to the elementary and middle school classroom. Concepts include mechanics, electricity and magnetism, optics, thermodynamics, and modern physics. One hour lecture and three hours laboratory. Materials fee required.

PHYS 305. Demonstration Laboratory in Physics. 1 Unit.
Prerequisite/Corequisite: PHYS 304
A demonstration laboratory exploring the basic principles of physics through individual student demonstration. Three hours laboratory. Materials fee required.

PHYS 306. Classical Mechanics I. 4 Units.
Prerequisites: PHYS 228 and one of the following: MATH 373, PHYS 373 with a grade of "C" or better in each course
A continuing study of dynamics with an introduction to advanced formulations. Four hours lecture.

PHYS 307. Classical Mechanics II. 4 Units.
Prerequisites: PHYS 306 with a grade of "C" or better
A continuation of PHYS 306 with emphasis in Lagrangian and Hamiltonian formulation in classical mechanics. Four hours lecture. Formerly PHYS 406.

PHYS 313. Electrodynamics I. 4 Units.
Prerequisites: PHYS 225 and 373 with a grade of "C" or better in each course
Derivation and applications of Maxwell's equations. Four hours lecture. Formerly PHYS 414.

PHYS 315. Introduction to Modern Optics. 4 Units.
Prerequisites: PHYS 313 with a grade of "C" or better
An introduction to geometrical optics, physical optics and lasers. Four hours lecture.

PHYS 318. Materials Science and Engineering. 4 Units.
Prerequisites: CHEM 215, PHYS 224 and PHYS 373
Fundamental materials science concepts with applications. Topics include structural, electrical and thermal properties of materials, phase diagrams, interfaces, and electronic band structure. Four hours lecture.

PHYS 324. Statistical and Thermal Physics. 4 Units.
Prerequisites: MATH 252 and PHYS 225 with a grade of "C" or better in each course
Basics of equilibrium thermodynamics including statistical description of physical systems, entropy and temperature, classical and quantum statistical ensembles, thermodynamics, and selected applications. Four hours lecture. Formerly PHYS 454.

PHYS 350. Data Acquisition and Control. 4 Units.
Prerequisites: CSCI 201, PHYS 150 and PHYS 222
An introduction to computer-based data acquisition, control and analysis. Topics include instrument control, graphical programming, algorithm development, feedback control algorithms, and computer-based data analysis. Three hours lecture and three hours laboratory. Materials fee required.

PHYS 352. Advanced Electronics. 4 Units.
Prerequisites: PHYS 350 and PHYS 373 with a grade of "C" or better in each course
Advanced analog electronics techniques for science and engineering. Topics include computer-aided circuit design, high frequency techniques, modular circuit design, and computer-experiment interfacing. Three hours lecture and three hours laboratory. Materials fee required.

PHYS 370. Introduction to Astrophysics. 4 Units.
Prerequisites: PHYS 225 and 373 with a grade of "C" or better in each course
Basic principles of stellar structure and evolution, galactic structure, extragalactic astronomy and cosmology. Four hours lecture.

PHYS 373. Mathematical Methods of Physics I. 4 Units.
Prerequisites: PHYS 222 and MATH 252. MATH 331 is recommended
Vector calculus, Fourier analysis, and ordinary differential equations. Emphasis on techniques applicable to the problems of physics.

PHYS 398. Junior Assessment. 1 Unit.
Prerequisites: PHYS 306 and PHYS 313 with a grade of "C" or better
Students will review the foundational subjects in physics (primarily classical mechanics, electrodynamics, thermodynamics and statistical mechanics, special relativity, and quantum mechanics) at the intermediate level and apply that knowledge to problem-solving.
**PHYS 421. Quantum Mechanics I. 4 Units.**
Prerequisites: MATH 331, PHYS 225 and PHYS 306 with a grade of "C" or better in each course
Introduction to quantum mechanics. Topics include the origins of quantum theory, angular momentum, the Dirac formalism, 2-level systems and the harmonic oscillator. Four hours lecture. Formerly PHYS 322.

**PHYS 422. Quantum Mechanics II. 4 Units.**
Prerequisites: PHYS 306, PHYS 314, and PHYS 421 with a grade of "C" or better in each course
Continued study of the principles of quantum mechanics introduced in PHYS 421. Topics include the axiomatic formulation of quantum mechanics, spin and orbital angular momentum, the Schrödinger equation in three dimensions, approximation methods, and scattering.

**PHYS 430. Advanced Physics Laboratory. 4 Units.**
Prerequisites: PHYS 313 with a grade of "C" or better. Recommended: PHYS 421
Selected advanced experiments appropriate to a student's previous preparation. May be repeated for credit. Two hours lecture and six hours laboratory. Materials fee required.

**PHYS 450. Solid State Physics. 4 Units.**
Prerequisites: PHYS 318, 421, and 473 with grades of "C" or better
A lecture course exploring selected topics in condensed matter physics. May be repeated for credit as topics change. Four hours lecture.

**PHYS 461. Introduction to Nuclear Physics. 4 Units.**
Prerequisites: PHYS 306 and 422 with a grade of "C" or better in each course
Basic concepts of nuclear structure and reactions, including accelerators and detectors, the nucleon-nucleon force, basic nuclear properties, the shell model, radioactivity, heavy ion reactions and quarks. Four hours lecture.

**PHYS 463. Introduction to Elementary Particle Physics. 4 Units.**
Prerequisites: PHYS 306 and 422 with a grade of "C" or better in each course
A survey of elementary particle physics, including accelerators, relativistic kinematics, conservation laws, quarks, the standard model, and quantum field theories. Four hours lecture.

**PHYS 473. Mathematical Methods of Physics II. 4 Units.**
Prerequisites: PHYS 373. MATH 331 and PHYS 228 are strongly recommended
A continuation of MATH/PHYS 373. Topics covered include functions of a complex variable and partial differential equations.

**PHYS 480A. Topics in Classical Physics: Mechanics. 4 Units.**
Prerequisites: PHYS 307 with a grade of "C" or better
Further treatment of topics in physics introduced in previous courses.

**PHYS 480B. Topics in Classical Physics: Electrodynamics. 4 Units.**
Prerequisites: PHYS 314 with a grade of "C" or better
Further treatment of topics in physics introduced in previous courses.

**PHYS 485A. Topics in Contemporary Physics. 1 Unit.**
A lecture course on a current topic or on new developments in physics. May be repeated for credit as topics change.

**PHYS 485B. Topics in Contemporary Physics. 2 Units.**
A lecture course on a current topic or on new developments in physics. May be repeated for credit as topics change.

**PHYS 573. Mathematical Methods of Physics III. 4 Units.**
Prerequisites: MATH 331, and MATH 473 or PHYS 473
A continuation of MATH/PHYS 473 with emphasis on advanced topics relevant to physics.

**PHYS 585B. Internship in Physics. 2 Units.**
Prerequisites: consent of instructor and department
Supervised work and study in physics in private or public setting. May be repeated for up to six units of credit. Graded credit/no credit.

**PHYS 585C. Internship in Physics. 3 Units.**
Prerequisites: consent of instructor and department
Supervised work and study in physics in private or public setting. May be repeated for up to six units of credit. Graded credit/no credit.

**PHYS 585D. Internship in Physics. 4 Units.**
Prerequisites: consent of instructor and department
Supervised work and study in physics in private or public setting. May be repeated for up to six units of credit. Graded credit/no credit.

**PHYS 590. Physics Seminar. 1 Unit.**
Prerequisites: senior standing and consent of department
Provides a vehicle for assessing the subject matter competency of physics graduates. May be repeated for credit. A total of two units may be applied towards the major requirements for graduation. Lecture only.

**PHYS 595A. Independent Study. 1 Unit.**
Prerequisites: a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0, consent of instructor and department
Research in physics conducted under the direction of a faculty member. A total of six units in PHYS 595 may be applied toward graduation.

**PHYS 595B. Independent Study. 2 Units.**
Prerequisites: a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0, consent of instructor and department
Research in physics conducted under the direction of a faculty member. A total of six units in PHYS 595 may be applied toward graduation.

**PHYS 595C. Independent Study. 3 Units.**
Prerequisites: a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0, consent of instructor and department
Research in physics conducted under the direction of a faculty member. A total of six units in PHYS 595 may be applied toward graduation.
PHYS 595D. Independent Study. 4 Units.
Prerequisites: a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0, consent of
instructor and departmental approval of a written proposal of a project
submitted on a standard application filed in advance of the quarter in
which the course is to be taken
Research in physics conducted under the direction of a faculty member. A
total of six units in PHYS 595 may be applied toward graduation.

PHYS 595E. Independent Study. 5 Units.
Prerequisites: a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0, consent of
instructor and departmental approval of a written proposal of a project
submitted on a standard application filed in advance of the quarter in
which the course is to be taken
Research in physics conducted under the direction of a faculty member. A
total of six units in PHYS 595 may be applied toward graduation.

PHYS 595F. Independent Study. 6 Units.
Prerequisites: a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0, consent of
instructor and departmental approval of a written proposal of a project
submitted on a standard application filed in advance of the quarter in
which the course is to be taken
Research in physics conducted under the direction of a faculty member. A
total of six units in PHYS 595 may be applied toward graduation.

PHYS 999. Comprehensive Examination. 0
Units.
Prerequisites: advancement to candidacy, approval of department,
completion of course work in the masters program, and in good academic
standing
An assessment of the students ability to integrate the knowledge of the
area, show critical and independent thinking and demonstrate mastery of
the subject matter.

Bachelor of Arts in Physics

Requirements (89 units)

Total units required for graduation: 180

Requirements for the B.A. in Physics

Lower-division requirements (53)
CHEM 215 General Chemistry I: Atomic Structure and Chemical Bonding 6
CHEM 216 General Chemistry II: Principles of Chemical Reactions 6
MATH 211 Basic Concepts of Calculus 4
MATH 212 Calculus II 4
MATH 213 Calculus III 4
MATH 251 Multivariable Calculus I 4
MATH 252 Multivariable Calculus II 4
PHYS 221 General Physics I 5
PHYS 222 General Physics II 5
PHYS 223 General Physics III 5
PHYS 224 General Physics IV 3
PHYS 225 General Physics V 3

Upper-division requirements (29)
MATH 315 Linear Algebra 4
PHYS 306 Classical Mechanics I 4
PHYS 313 Electrodynamics I 4
PHYS 324 Statistical and Thermal Physics 4
PHYS 373 Mathematical Methods of Physics I 4
PHYS 398 Junior Assessment 1
PHYS 421 Quantum Mechanics I 4
PHYS 430 Advanced Physics Laboratory 4

Electives (7)
Seven units chosen from upper-division physics courses selected with
the approval of the department:
PHYS 307 Classical Mechanics II
PHYS 314 Electrodynamics II
PHYS 315 Introduction to Modern Optics
PHYS 318 Materials Science and Engineering
PHYS 370 Introduction to Astrophysics
PHYS 422 Quantum Mechanics II
PHYS 450 Solid State Physics
PHYS 461 Introduction to Nuclear Physics
PHYS 463 Introduction to Elementary Particle Physics
PHYS 473 Mathematical Methods of Physics II
PHYS 480A Topics in Classical Physics: Mechanics
PHYS 480B Topics in Classical Physics: Electrodynamics
PHYS 485A-D Topics in Contemporary Physics
PHYS 573 Mathematical Methods of Physics III
PHYS 590 Physics Seminar
PHYS 595A-E Independent Study

Total Units 89

Bachelor of Science in Physics

Requirements (107 units)

Total units required for graduation: 180

Requirements for the B.S. in Physics

Lower-division requirements (53)
CHEM 215 General Chemistry I: Atomic Structure and Chemical Bonding 6
CHEM 216 General Chemistry II: Principles of Chemical Reactions 6
MATH 211 Basic Concepts of Calculus 4
MATH 212 Calculus II 4
MATH 213 Calculus III 4
MATH 251 Multivariable Calculus I 4
MATH 252 Multivariable Calculus II 4
PHYS 221 General Physics I 5
PHYS 222 General Physics II 5
PHYS 223 General Physics III 5
PHYS 224 General Physics IV 3
PHYS 225 General Physics V 3

Upper-division requirements (45)
MATH 331 Linear Algebra 4
PHYS 306 Classical Mechanics I 4
PHYS 307 Classical Mechanics II 4
PHYS 313 Electrodynamics I 4
PHYS 314  Electrodymanics II  4
PHYS 324  Statistical and Thermal Physics  4
PHYS 373  Mathematical Methods of Physics I  4
PHYS 398  Junior Assessment  1
PHYS 421  Quantum Mechanics I  4
PHYS 422  Quantum Mechanics II  4
PHYS 430  Advanced Physics Laboratory  4
PHYS 473  Mathematical Methods of Physics II  4

Electives (9)
five or more units chosen from upper-division physics courses selected with the approval of the department:
PHYS 315  Introduction to Modern Optics
PHYS 318  Materials Science and Engineering
PHYS 370  Introduction to Astrophysics
PHYS 450  Solid State Physics
PHYS 461  Introduction to Nuclear Physics
PHYS 463  Introduction to Elementary Particle Physics
PHYS 480A  Topics in Classical Physics: Mechanics
PHYS 480B  Topics in Classical Physics: Electrodynamics
PHYS 485A-D  Topics in Contemporary Physics
PHYS 573  Mathematical Methods of Physics III
PHYS 590  Physics Seminar
PHYS 595A-E  Independent Study

Four units of computer science course work at the 200-level or above selected with the approval of the Physics Department.

Total Units 107

Bachelor of Science in Physics - Applied Physics
Requirements (107 units)
Total units required for graduation: 180

Requirements for the B.S. in Physics - Applied Physics Option
Lower-division requirements (62)
CHEM 215  General Chemistry I: Atomic Structure and Chemical Bonding  6
CHEM 216  General Chemistry II: Principles of Chemical Reactions  6
CSE 201  Computer Science I  4
MATH 211  Basic Concepts of Calculus  4
MATH 212  Calculus II  4
MATH 213  Calculus III  4
MATH 251  Multivariable Calculus I  4
MATH 252  Multivariable Calculus II  4
PHYS 150  Introductory Electronics  5
PHYS 221  General Physics I  5
PHYS 222  General Physics II  5
PHYS 223  General Physics III  5
PHYS 224  General Physics IV  3
PHYS 225  General Physics V  3

Upper-division requirements (45)
MATH 331  Linear Algebra  4
PHYS 306  Classical Mechanics I  4
PHYS 313  Electrodynamics I  4
PHYS 314  Electrodynamics II  4
PHYS 318  Materials Science and Engineering  4
PHYS 324  Statistical and Thermal Physics  4
PHYS 350  Data Acquisition and Control  4
PHYS 352  Advanced Electronics  4
PHYS 373  Mathematical Methods of Physics I  4
PHYS 398  Junior Assessment  1
PHYS 421  Quantum Mechanics I  4
PHYS 430  Advanced Physics Laboratory  4

Minor in Applied Physics
Requirements (54 units)

Requirements for a minor in Applied Physics
Lower-division requirements (42)
CSE 201  Computer Science I  4
MATH 211  Basic Concepts of Calculus  4
MATH 212  Calculus II  4
MATH 251  Multivariable Calculus I  4
PHYS 150  Introductory Electronics  5
PHYS 221  General Physics I  5
PHYS 222  General Physics II  5
PHYS 223  General Physics III  5
PHYS 224  General Physics IV  3
PHYS 225  General Physics V  3

Upper-division requirements (12)
PHYS 350  Data Acquisition and Control  4
PHYS 352  Advanced Electronics  4
PHYS 373  Mathematical Methods of Physics I  4

Total Units 54

Note: The MATH 252 prerequisite for PHYS 373 will be waived for the applied physics minor.

Minor in Physics
Requirements (61 units)

Requirements for a minor in Physics
Lower-division requirements (41)
MATH 211  Basic Concepts of Calculus  4
MATH 212  Calculus II  4
MATH 213  Calculus III  4
MATH 251  Multivariable Calculus I  4
MATH 252  Multivariable Calculus II  4
PHYS 221  General Physics I  5

Total Units 41
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<td>PHYS 306</td>
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**Total Units**: 61