

Orientation Advising 2026

Physics & Astronomy

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Fall Semester Courses

Sample Schedules

Will vary depending on assigned CNS Community

- M 408C - Calculus
- PHY 110C – Seminar for PHY majors
- UGS 302 or 303 – Core requirement
- CH 301 or AST 307 – Major requirement
- RHE 306 or other core (ex. MUS 307)

Physics Majors

M 408D


PHY 301 & 101L

PHY 110C


UGS 302 or 303

RHE 306 or other core course

For students who
have a 5 on Calculus
BC and credit for
PHY 301 & 101L



For students who have
credit for M 408C or
M 408N (K) & S (L)



M 408M or M 427L-AP

PHY 316 & 116L

PHY 110C

UGS 302 or 303

RHE 306 or other core course

Astronomy Majors

M 408D
PHY 301 & 101L
AST 307
UGS 302 or 303

For students who
have a 5 on Calculus
BC and credit for
PHY 301 & 101L

For students who have
credit for M 408C or
M 408N (K) & S (L)

M 408M or M 427L-AP
PHY 316 & 116L
AST 307
UGS 302 or 303

Mathematics Course Sequences

Traditional

M408N (aka K)
Differential Calculus

M408S (aka L)
Integral Calculus

M408M
Multivariable Calculus

Accelerated

M408C
Differential & Integral Calculus

M408D
Integral & Multivariable
Calculus

Physics and Astronomy degrees require M 408C & M 408D or M 408N (aka K), M 408S (aka L), and M 408M

M 427L-AP can count in place of M 408M or M 408D

Consider the Following Things When Choosing Fall Mathematics Course

Your choice is based on:

1) **Your UTMA score**

70 or higher for M 408C or M 408N (78 recommended for M 408C)

(55 or higher for M 305G)

2) AP Credit

Score	Credit Earned	Fall Course Recommendation
AB: 3 or 4	M 408N (K)	M 408N or M 408C or M 408S
AB: 5	M 408C	M 408D or M 408D-AP
BC: 3 or 4	M 408C	M 408C or M 408D or M 408D-AP
BC: 5	M 408C <u>or</u> M 408N (K) & 408S (L)	M 408D or M 408M or M 427L-AP

(M 408N and M 408S are the College of Natural Sciences versions of M 408K & M 408L)

3) Dual Credit

M 408N  M 408S

M 408N & 408S  M 408M

4) Confidence in your math skills

Other Factors to Consider

(If you are eligible for calculus but close to the cut-off score of 70):

- No high school calculus
- You took calculus, but not AP, in high school
- Your gut says you are not prepared for college calculus

Preparation for Calculus (M 305G) is an option

If you decide to take calculus:

- Use the Math Readiness Package this summer
- Go to discussion sections in fall
- Make use of resources
 - Sanger Learning Center
 - CalcLab
 - Professor's office hours

*Talk to an
advisor if you
are not sure
which math
course to take*

Advanced Math

If you took math beyond the level of AP Calculus BC in high school, the Academic Advisor you meet with will refer you to the Math Faculty Advisor.

Physics Courses

- **PHY 110C** – Science of the Times seminar
 - Often the only PHY course in 1st semester
- **PHY 301 & PHY 101L** – Mechanics & lab
 - Prerequisite: credit with at least C- or registration in M 408D, 408L, or 408S and PHY 101L
- **PHY 316 & 116L** – Electricity and Magnetism & lab
 - Prerequisite: PHY 301 & 101L with at least C- in each; credit with at least C- or registration in M 408D or 408M, and PHY 116L

Other Science Courses

- **BS in Physics** requires CH 301 & 302 plus 6 hrs majors-level coursework in BIO, GEO, or AST (Biophysics requires BIO 311C & 311D)
- **BSA in Physics** requires 3 hrs majors-level coursework in AST, BIO, CH, CS, and GEO (can overlap with core Science & Tech Part II)
- **BS in Astronomy** requires AST 307; requires 6 hrs majors-level coursework in BIO, CH, CS, and/or GEO (Elements of Computing courses may be counted)
- **BSA in Astronomy** requires 12 hrs majors-level coursework from 1 or more of these areas: BIO, CH, CS, GEO, Mathematics, SDS

Science Courses & AP Scores

AP Chemistry, 4-5	Chemistry – CH 301, 302 & 204
AP Physics 1, 3-5 (<u>PHY/AST Majors should not claim this credit!</u>)	Physics (algebra-based) – PHY 302K & 105M
AP Physics 2, 3-5. (<u>PHY/AST Majors should not claim this credit!</u>)	Physics (algebra-based) – PHY 302L & 105N
AP Physics C-Mechanics, 3-5	Physics (calculus-based) - PHY 301 & 101L (or PHY 303K & 105M)
AP Physics C-Elect. & Magnetism, 3-5	Physics (calculus-based) - PHY 316 & 116L (or PHY 303L & 105N)
AP Biology, 3-4; AP Biology 5	Biology – BIO 311C; BIO 311C & 311D

UGS 302 or 303: Signature Course

- Topic based
- 302 - writing based, small
- 303 - larger, less writing
- Must take in first 2 semesters
- Have several back up topics in mind!

Core Courses & AP Credit

<https://ugs.utexas.edu/core/requirements/current>
(Talk to your Academic Advisor before claiming credit)

RHE 306 – Composition 1	AP Language, 3-5 or SAT Writing & Lang, 33+
E 316L, M, N, or P - Literature	AP Literature, 4-5
US History, 6 hrs	AP US History, 3-5: HIS 315L
Government, 6 hrs	AP Government, 3-5: GOV 310L
Social & Behavioral Science, 3 hrs	AP PSY, ECO, GRG, 3-5
Visual & Performing Arts, 3 hrs	AP Art History or Music Theory, 3-5

Intensive Writing



Students must complete a course that is:

- Identified as an intensive writing experience
- Not part of the core curriculum
- Can be part of your major



CNS Cornerstones Communities

Most common:

- **Foundations Cluster**
- **Includes NSC 109 Seminars**
- **Course(s) taken by all cluster members**

Group of about 20-25 that meets weekly with an Advisor and a Student Mentor

Get to know other people with similar interests

Share 1 or more courses – reserved seats

Informal meeting with a professor, help with registration, study skills information, fun, etc.

Free food

**Add "99" number first
when you register**

Other Courses That May Be Part Of Your Schedule

- FRI (Research Methods Course)
- UTeach (UTS 101)
- Foreign Language or Foreign Culture courses (B.S. degrees)
- Special programs may require certain courses (Jefferson Scholars, University Leadership Network, Plan II, etc.)

Possible Interest in Teaching?

- See Orientation Schedule for several UTeach info sessions and events
- Check out UTeach Palooza on Day 2, 2-3:30 PM on the Painter front lawn
- Visit uteach.utexas.edu for other UTeach information

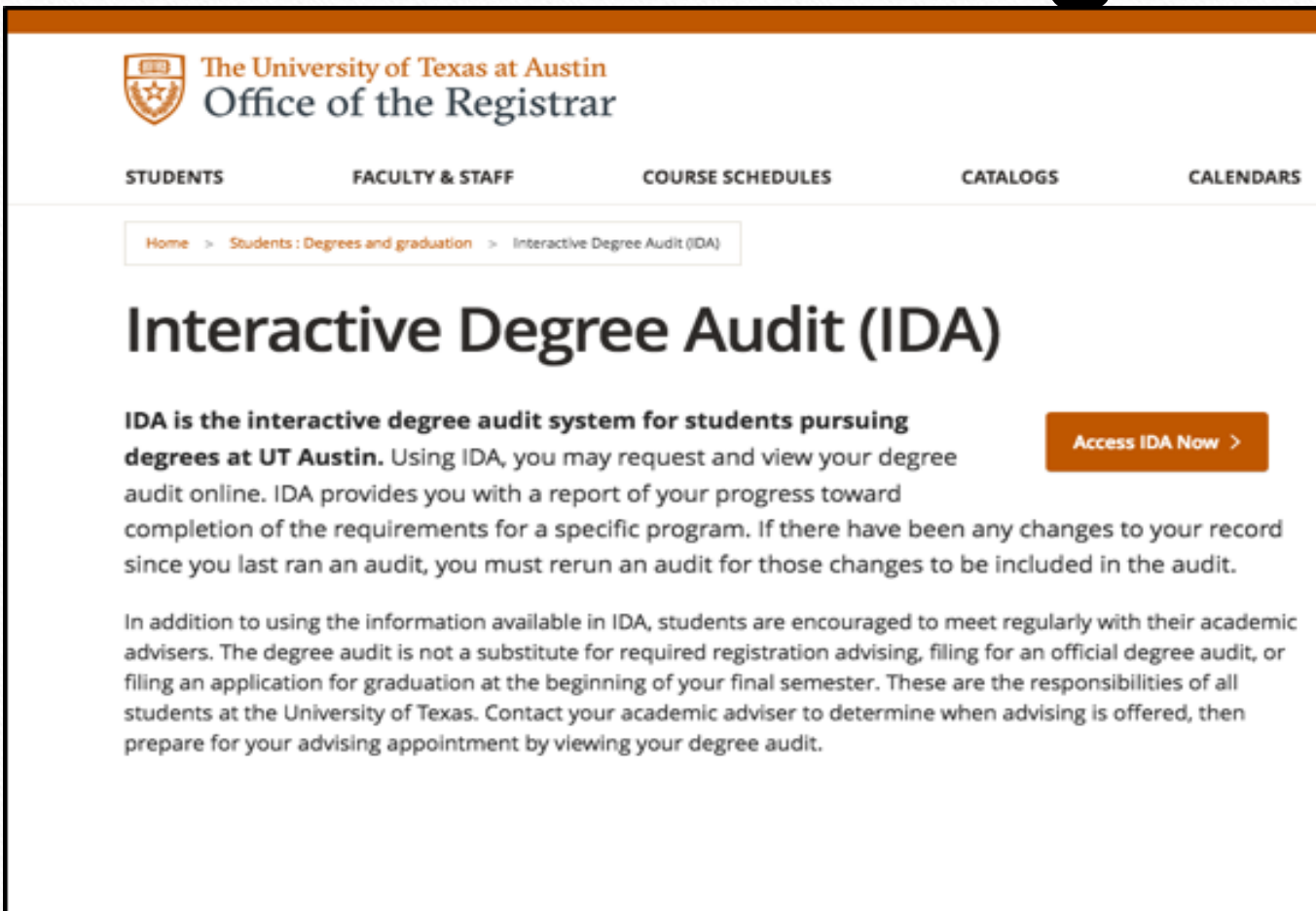
Minors & Certificates

- Required only for BSA degrees
- Optional for other degrees
- Another option for a BSA degree is 15 hrs in a single subject
- Transcribed minor or certificate: specific guidelines & classes
- Claiming a minor or certificate does not guarantee access to all classes that can count

<https://cns.utexas.edu/students/degrees-majors-advising/transcribed-certificates>

<https://cns.utexas.edu/students/degrees-majors-advising/transcribed-minors>

Interactive Degree Audit



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the University of Texas at Austin Office of the Registrar website. The navigation menu includes: STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF, COURSE SCHEDULES, CATALOGS, and CALENDARS. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Students : Degrees and graduation > Interactive Degree Audit (IDA). The main heading is "Interactive Degree Audit (IDA)". The text describes IDA as an interactive system for students pursuing degrees at UT Austin, allowing them to request and view their degree audit online. It mentions that IDA provides a report on progress toward completion of requirements for a specific program and that changes to the record since the last audit must be rerun. A prominent orange button labeled "Access IDA Now >" is visible. Below the main text, there is a paragraph of additional information: "In addition to using the information available in IDA, students are encouraged to meet regularly with their academic advisers. The degree audit is not a substitute for required registration advising, filing for an official degree audit, or filing an application for graduation at the beginning of your final semester. These are the responsibilities of all students at the University of Texas. Contact your academic adviser to determine when advising is offered, then prepare for your advising appointment by viewing your degree audit."

Excellent way to see how courses count and what requirements you still have

Registration

Before Registration

- Be thinking about which math & science courses you want to take
- Have a 1-on-1 meeting with an Academic Advisor (Day 2)
- Advisor will provide information about reserved course(s) in your CNS community
- Choose 2-3 more courses (for many, UGS 302 or 303 should be one of these)
- Have back-up courses in mind
- Check your Registration Information Sheet (RIS) for holds

Registration on Day 2

- Attend major department meeting in the morning
- Academic Advisors will be available by email or Zoom as needed
- Add Foundations community cluster number first

Registration can be stressful, but remember:

We are here to help

You will get what you need (not always exactly what you want)

Things change, especially in August:

- **Use wait lists when you can**
- **Make changes during add & drop periods in August & Sept.**

It's the beginning of your UT adventure!