

ASTRONOMY, MINOR (318)

Program Requirements (19-20 hours)

The minor in astronomy is designed to provide a background in astronomy for students with a range of backgrounds. Science majors can choose from a variety of specializations connecting to other fields (Option A below), such as astrobiology, astrochemistry, astrostatistics, or planetary science. Students in other disciplines may still obtain a firm grounding in basic astronomy and physics, supplemented with relevant courses from other fields (Option B below).

A minor in astronomy consists of 19-20 credit hours.

Option A

Code	Title	Hours
Option A: Required Courses		
ASTR 214	General Astronomy	4
ASTR 314	Observational Astronomy	4
Option A: Electives ¹		12
Students choose a specialization area that interests them and take a minimum of two courses (at least 6 hours) from this area, plus enough other courses from the list of general elective courses to reach the 20 hour program option requirement.		
Total Hours		20

¹ Option A: Special Elective Courses (6+ hours)

Astrophysics: ASTR 305, ASTR 414, PHYS 321, PHYS 350

Astrochemistry: ASTR 305, CHEM 340, CHEM 342, CHEM 420, CHEM 450, CHEM 452

Astrobiology: ASTR 305, BIOL 316, BIOL 319

Astronomical Instrumentation: ASTR 305, EE 445, EE 479

Astrostatistics: ASTR 305, STAT 301, STAT 330

Planetary Science: ASTR 305, GEOL 325, GEOL 330, GEOL 430, GEOL 465, METR 438, METR 439

Option A: General Elective Courses

ASTR 305, ASTR 414, PHYS 180, PHYS 231, PHYS 255, PHYS 265, PHYS 321, PHYS 332, PHYS 465

Option B

Code	Title	Hours
Option B: Required Courses		
ASTR 314	Observational Astronomy	4
Choose two of the following courses:		6
PHYS 103	Light, Color and Vision	
ASTR 104	Astronomy of the Solar System	
ASTR 106	Astronomy of Stellar Systems	
Option B: Electives		9
Students choose three unduplicated courses from the following list:		
ASTR 305	Introduction to Astrobiology	
COMM 365	Intercultural Communication	
PHYS 489	Internship in Physics and Astronomy	

REC 434 Interpreting America's National Parks

ASTR 104, ASTR 106, and PHYS 103 may apply if not used in Option B: Required Courses.

Total Hours **19**

Students may petition the department to replace one of the above elective course with a different 3-hour course with a demonstrable connection to astronomy. The minor must include at least 10 credit hours at the 300-level or above.