

Science Education (BS): Physics Concentration

The Science Education: Physics concentration (BS) degree is one of five undergraduate degree options in the Science Education program in the Department of STEM Education.

This degree program prepares teacher-leaders to have a deep understanding of the pedagogical strategies to teach high school Physics. Students complete courses focused on Physics and Science education, obtain relevant pedagogical experiences while immersed in rich field experiences in science classrooms, and emphasize teaching science with technology. Upon successful completion of the program, students are recommended for an initial North Carolina teaching license in grades 9-12. They will be able to seek employment opportunities in education and make a positive difference in their communities.

The goals and objectives of the BS degree in Science Education are:

- To enable and ensure that each prospective teacher enriches his/her life through a comprehensive university education
- To develop the professional qualities and academic background needed to teach science to all student levels in the grade for which the teacher is certified
- To develop a general knowledge foundation upon which specialized professional knowledge is built, and upon which a well-rounded university education is the base

Coursework for the degree is divided into four types of knowledge:

- General pedagogical knowledge — the nature of learners and general principles of instruction
- Content-area knowledge — knowledge of the natural sciences
- Pedagogical content knowledge — principles of curriculum, instruction and assessment directly related to the natural sciences
- Context knowledge — understanding the culture of the school, community and society in which educational institutions exist and function

Students in this program also have the opportunity to participate in:

- Undergraduate research
- The student chapter of the NC Science Teachers Association (NCSTA), and other high impact experiences such as Passport to Success, SAY Village, and study abroad
- Outreach and tutoring in local schools

For more information about this program, visit our website (<https://ced.ncsu.edu/programs/science-education-middle-school-or-secondary-bachelor/>).

Contact

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Plan Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Orientation		
ED 100	Intro to Education ¹	2
	or ED 150/151 Students Advocating for Youth I	
Communication/Advanced Writing		3
Choose from:		
COM 110	Public Speaking	
COM 112	Interpersonal Communication	
COM 211	Argumentation and Advocacy	
COM 289	Science Communication and Public Engagement	
ENG 232	Literature and Medicine	
ENG 331	Communication for Engineering and Technology	
ENG 333	Communication for Science and Research	
ENG 425	Analysis of Scientific and Technical Writing	
(Physics BA double major choose ENG 331 or ENG 333)		
Mathematics		
MA 141	Calculus I	4
MA 241	Calculus II	4
MA 242	Calculus III	4
MA 341	Applied Differential Equations I	3
Sciences		
BIO 181	Introductory Biology: Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity ²	4
BIO 183	Introductory Biology: Cellular and Molecular Biology ²	4
CH 101 & CH 102	Chemistry - A Molecular Science and General Chemistry Laboratory ²	4
Earth and Environmental Science Electives (p. 2) ²		6
PY 205 & PY 206	Physics for Engineers and Scientists I and Physics for Engineers and Scientists I Laboratory ²	4
	or PY 201 University Physics I	
(Physics BA double major choose PY 201)		
PY 208 & PY 209	Physics for Engineers and Scientists II and Physics for Engineers and Scientists II Laboratory ²	4
	or PY 202 University Physics II	
(Physics BA double major choose PY 202)		
Physics Electives 100/200 Level (p. 2) ²		3
(Physics BA double major choose PY 203)		
Physics Electives 300/400 Level (p. 2) ²		9
(Physics BA double major choose PY 401, PY 411, PY 413, and PY 414)		
Advised Science Electives (p. 2) ²		6
Science Education		

EMS 205	Introduction to Teaching Science ³	2
EMS 373	Instructional Materials in Science ¹	3
EMS 375	Methods of Teaching Science I ³	3
EMS 475	Methods of Teaching Science II ³	3
EMS 476	Student Teaching in Science ^{3, 4}	10
EMS 495	Senior Seminar in Mathematics and Science Education ^{1, 4}	2

General Education and Psychology

ED 204	Introduction to Teaching in Today's Schools ¹	2
EDP 304	Educational Psychology ¹	3
ED 311 & ED 312	Classroom Assessment Principles and Practices and Classroom Assessment Principles and Practices Professional Learning Lab ¹	3
ELP 344	School and Society ¹	3
ECI 416	Teaching Students with Disabilities in Inclusive Classrooms ¹	3

History and Philosophy of Science Education Elective (p.) 3**Free Electives** 0-4**GEP Courses**

ENG 101	Academic Writing and Research	4
GEP Humanities (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-humanities/) (verify requirement)		0-6
GEP Social Sciences (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-social-sciences/) (verify requirement)		0-6
GEP Health and Exercise Studies (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-health-exercise-studies/)		2
GEP Elective (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)		3
GEP Global Knowledge (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-global-knowledge/) (verify requirement)		
GEP Foundations of American Democracy (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-fad/) (verify requirement)		
World Language Proficiency (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/world-language-proficiency/) (verify requirement)		

Total Hours 120¹ A grade of C or higher is required.² A grade of C or higher is required for science content courses, up to two courses with a grade below a C is permitted³ A grade of B- or higher is required.⁴ Admission to the Professional Semester is required.**Earth and Environmental Science Electives****Physics Electives 100/200 Level**

Code	Title	Hours
Choose from:		
PY 123	Stellar and Galactic Astronomy	3
PY 124	Solar System Astronomy	3
PY 125	Astronomy Laboratory	1
PY 203	University Physics III	4
PY 251	Introduction to Scientific Computing	3

PY 252	Instrumental and Data Analysis for Physics	2
PY 299	Special Problems in Physics	1-3
Physics Electives 300/400 Level (p. 2)		

Physics Electives 300/400 Level

Code	Title	Hours
Choose from:		
PY 301	Introduction to Quantum Mechanics	3
PY 328	Stellar and Galactic Astrophysics	3
PY 341	Relativity, Gravitation and Cosmology	3
PY 401	Quantum Physics I	3
PY 402	Quantum Physics II	3
PY 407	Introduction to Modern Physics	3
PY 411	Mechanics I	3
PY 412	Mechanics II	3
PY 413	Thermal Physics	3
PY 414	Electromagnetism I	3
PY 415	Electromagnetism II	3
PY 452	Advanced Physics Laboratory	3
PY 456	Senior Design Project in Physics	3
PY 489	Solid State Solar and Thermal Energy Harvesting	3
PY 495	Special Topics in Physics	1-4
PY 499	Independent Research in Physics	1-6

Advised Science Electives

Code	Title	Hours
ANY 200+ Level AEC, BIO, BCH, BSC, CH, ENT, ES, MB, MEA, PB, PY, ZO		
ANY GEP Natural Sciences (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-natural-sciences/) course (except BIO 105/106, CH 111)		
ANS 150	Introduction to Animal Science	3
ANS 205	Physiology of Domestic Animals	3
ANS 206	Anatomy of Domestic Animals Lab	1
ANS 220	Reproductive Physiology	3
ANS 221	Reproductive Physiology Lab	1
BIO 165		
CS 211	Plant Genetics	3
ES 100	Introduction to Environmental Sciences	3
ES 111	Applications of Environmental Sciences	1
ES 150	Water and the Environment	3
FOR 252	Introduction to Forest Science	3
FOR 260	Forest Ecology	4
FOR 261	Forest Communities	2
FOR 264	Forest Wildlife	1
FOR 339		
FW 353	Wildlife Management	3
FW 404	Wildlife Habitat Management	3
FW 405	Tropical Wildlife Ecology	3
FW 444	Mammalogy	3
FW 453	Principles of Wildlife Science	4
FW 460	International Wildlife Management and Conservation	3

NR 303	Humans and the Environment	3
NR 406	Conservation of Biological Diversity	3

Semester Sequence

This is a sample.

First Year

Fall Semester		Hours
ED 100	Intro to Education ¹	2
PY 205 & PY 206 or PY 201	Physics for Engineers and Scientists I ² or University Physics I	4
MA 141	Calculus I	4
ENG 101	Academic Writing and Research	4
GEP Health and Exercise Studies (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-health-exercise-studies/)		1
Hours		15

Spring Semester

PY 208 & PY 209 or PY 202	Physics for Engineers and Scientists II ² or University Physics II	4
MA 241	Calculus II	4
CH 101 & CH 102	Chemistry - A Molecular Science and General Chemistry Laboratory	4
GEP Health and Exercise Studies (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-health-exercise-studies/)		1
Communication/Advanced Writing Req.		3
Choose from:		
COM 110	Public Speaking	
COM 112	Interpersonal Communication	
COM 211	Argumentation and Advocacy	
COM 289	Science Communication and Public Engagement	
ENG 232	Literature and Medicine	
ENG 331	Communication for Engineering and Technology	
ENG 333	Communication for Science and Research	
ENG 425	Analysis of Scientific and Technical Writing	
Hours		16

Second Year

Fall Semester

Physics Elective 100/200 Level (p.) ²	3
MA 242 Calculus III	4
BIO 181 Introductory Biology: Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity ²	4
Earth and Environmental Science Elective (p. 2) ²	3
GEP Humanities (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-humanities/)	3
Hours	17

Spring Semester

EMS 205	Introduction to Teaching Science ³	2
ED 204	Introduction to Teaching in Today's Schools ¹	2

EDP 304	Educational Psychology ¹	3
MA 341	Applied Differential Equations I	3
BIO 183	Introductory Biology: Cellular and Molecular Biology ²	4
Hours		14

Third Year

Fall Semester

EMS 373	Instructional Materials in Science ¹	3
ELP 344	School and Society ¹	3
History and Philosophy of Science Education Elective (p.)		3
Physics Elective 300/400 Level (p. 2)		3
Free Elective		4
Hours		16

Spring Semester

EMS 375	Methods of Teaching Science I ³	3
ED 311 & ED 312	Classroom Assessment Principles and Practices and Classroom Assessment Principles and Practices Professional Learning Lab ¹	3
Physics Elective 300/400 Level (p. 2) ²		3
Earth and Environmental Science Elective (p. 2) ²		3
Advised Science Elective (p. 2) ²		3
Hours		15

Fourth Year

Fall Semester

EMS 475	Methods of Teaching Science II ³	3
ECI 416	Teaching Students with Disabilities in Inclusive Classrooms ¹	3
Physics Elective 300/400 Level (p. 2) ²		3
Advised Science Elective (p. 2) ²		3
GEP Elective (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)		3
Hours		15

Spring Semester

EMS 476	Student Teaching in Science ¹	10
EMS 495	Senior Seminar in Mathematics and Science Education ¹	2
Hours		12
Total Hours		120

¹ A grade of C or better is required.

² A grade of C or better is required, up to two courses with a grade below a C is permitted.

³ A grade of B- or better is required.

Career Opportunities

Career Titles

- Atmospheric, Earth, Marine, and Space Sciences Teachers, Postsecondary
- Biology Professor
- Chemistry Professor
- Elementary School Teacher
- Environmental Science Professor

- High School Teacher
- Middle School Teacher
- Physics Professor

Learn More About Careers

NCcareers.org (<https://nccareers.org/>)

Explore North Carolina's central online resource for students, parents, educators, job seekers and career counselors looking for high quality job and career information.

Occupational Outlook Handbook (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>)

Browse the Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to view state and area employment and wage statistics.

You can also identify and compare similar occupations based on your interests.

Career One Stop Videos (<https://www.careeronestop.org/>)

View videos that provide career details and information on wages, employment trends, skills needed, and more for any occupation.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Focus 2 Career Assessment (<https://careers.dasa.ncsu.edu/explore-careers/career-assessments/>) (NC State student email address required)

This career, major and education planning system is available to current NC State students to learn about how your values, interests, competencies, and personality fit into the NC State majors and your future career. An NC State email address is required to create an account. Make an appointment with your career counselor (<https://careers.dasa.ncsu.edu/about/hours-appointments/>) to discuss the results.

Focus 2 Apply Assessment (<https://www.focus2career.com/Portal/Register.cfm?SID=1929>) (Available to prospective students)

A career assessment tool designed to support prospective students in exploring and choosing the right major and career path based on your unique personality, interests, skills and values. Get started with Focus 2 Apply and see how it can guide your journey at NC State.