Science Teaching

The State of Minnesota grants science teacher licensure for grades 5-8 general science, 9-12 Chemistry, 9-12 Earth Science, 9-12 Life Science, and 9-12 Physics. Students earning a degree from Minnesota State Mankato will qualify for two licenses (1) 5-8 general science and (2) 9-12 specialty.

Each major requires the 31 credit general core and a science emphasis that ranges from 27-35 credits of science and science teaching methods courses. In addition, the student must complete a 30 credit professional education component and the 3 credit Drug Education course.

The University Science Teaching Program must meet specific competencies to meet professional accreditation and licensure requirements. To stay within the required degree limits of 128 credit hours, students are strongly advised to select courses within the 44 credit general education program that meet both teaching program and general education needs. It is important for the student to meet with their advisor to assist with program planning.

A minor is not required for any of the science teaching programs; however, to broaden one’s teaching opportunities, double majors are encouraged. For further details, the student should check with one of the science teaching advisors for an overview of available opportunities.

Policies/Information

GPA Policy. Students obtaining a degree in science teaching must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 in the sciences. Students who are not science teaching majors should consult an advisor concerning possible additional course requirements.

P/N Grading Policy. Courses leading to a degree in science teaching may not be taken on a P/N basis except where P/N grading is mandatory.

For All Science Teaching Programs

### Required General Education (3 credits):
- HLTH 310 Drug Education (3)

### Required General Science Core (31 credits):
- AST 101 Introduction to Astronomy (3)
- BIOL 105W General Biology I (4)
- BIOL 106 General Biology II (4)
- CHEM 201 General Chemistry I (5)
- GEOL 121 Physical Geology (4)
- GEOL 310 Earth and Space Systems (3)
- PHYS 211 Principles of Physics I (4)*
- PHYS 212 Principles of Physics II (4)*
* PHYS 221 and PHYS 222 may substitute. The additional credit hours will reduce the number of credits in the advanced physics courses.

### Required for All Majors (Professional Education, 30 credits):
See the SECONDARY EDUCATION section for additional information about admissions to Professional Education, and course requirements.

### Required Minor: None.
Required for Major (Electives, 9 credits):
Choose a minimum of 9 credits from Biology courses from the 300-400 level

PHYSICS (5-12) BS TEACHING
Required General Education (3 credits)
Recommended General Education (22-23 credits) Including MATH 121
Required General Science Core (31-33 credits)
Required Professional Education (30 credits)
Required for Major (Core, 21 credits):
MATH 122 Calculus II (4)
PHYS 335 Modern Physics I (3)
PHYS 336 Modern Physics II (3)
PHYS 381 Tutoring Physics (2)
PHYS 465 Computer Applications in Physics (3)
PHYS 482 Teaching Methods and Materials in Physical Science (4)
PHYS 493 Undergraduate Research (1-6)

Electives (Minimum of 8 Credits)*
Students may use PHYS 221 and PHYS 222 to fulfill their Physics Electives requirement only if PHYS 211 and PHYS 212 are completed successfully.

Alternatively, students with a strong interest in applying advanced mathematical skills to problems in physics are encouraged to choose a minimum of 8 credits* of higher level Physics or Mathematics as approved by the student's advisor to fulfill the Physics Elective requirement.

*This is reduced to 6 credits if PHYS 221 and PHYS 222 have been taken in place of PHYS 211 and PHYS 212 in partial fulfillment of the General Science Core requirements.

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