

ASTRONOMY MINOR

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

The Astronomy Minor provides students the opportunity to learn about and analyze astronomical phenomena and processes. A minor in astronomy provides a background for graduate-level studies in astronomy or work in related fields. Interested students should see an Astronomy Minor advisor.

Program Learning Objectives

1. Discuss and explain the core foundations of astronomy including taxonomy and formation and evolution of planets, stars, galaxies, and the Universe.
2. Design and conduct an observing project with a research telescope (specifically demonstrating understanding of observing techniques and astronomical instrumentation) and/or projects drawing upon data in the literature and in archives.
3. Recognize the interdisciplinary nature of astronomy and apply basic principles from a broad range of topics in physics (including but not limited to quantum mechanics, classical dynamics, electromagnetism, relativity) and other scientific fields (including but not limited to geology and chemistry) to astronomical situations.
4. Communicate scientific ideas effectively in a variety of contexts using written, oral, and visual presentations in a manner consistent with accepted professional norms.

Minor Requirements and Curriculum

The minor must be completed prior to, or at the same time as, the requirements for the bachelor's degree. A major and a minor may not be taken in the same degree program, and a minor is not required for a degree. Requirements for the minor include:

- At least half of the units must be from upper-division courses (3000-4000 level).
- At least half of the units must be taken at Cal Poly (in residence).
- No more than one-third of the units will be taken with credit-no credit grading (CR/NC), not counting courses with mandatory CR/NC. Departments may further limit CR/NC grading if desired.
- A minimum 2.0 GPA is required in all units counted for completion of the minor.

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
PHYS 1143	General Physics II	4
PHYS 2211	General Physics III: Modern Physics	4
ASTR 3301	Stars and Planetary Systems	3
ASTR 3302	Galaxies and Cosmology	3
ASTR 4444	Observational Astronomy	4
Total Units		18