

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Astronomy Minor Program

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Specifics (see instructions):

Astronomy Minor Program

Current Entry:

A minor in astronomy is offered to students who are preparing for a career in astronomy or astrophysics or to those who are interested in an in-depth survey of modern astronomy. The minor is open to students with a major in any discipline. The minor consists of 18 credits: PHYS 121, 122, 305, 315, 316 and 415. PHYS 122 is a prerequisite to the last four courses. Students have the opportunity to use the department's 0.8 meter Cassegrain telescope in research projects that are integrated into the astronomy courses. Students pursuing the astronomy minor will be assigned an advisor in the Department of Physics.

Proposed Change:

A minor in astronomy is offered to students who are preparing for a career in astronomy or astrophysics or to those who are interested in an in-depth survey of modern astronomy. The minor is open to students with a major in any discipline. The minor consists of 20 credits: PHYS121, PHYS122, PHYS 304 and any three courses from PHYS315, 405, 415, 416, 425 and (permission required) PHYS499H. PHYS 122 is a pre-requisite for PHYS304. In PHYS415 and PHYS499H, students will gain some "hand-on" experience with real data extracted from recently archived data, or obtained using the department's 0.8 meter Cassegrain telescope. Students pursuing the astronomy minor will be assigned an advisor in the Department of Physics.

Rationale (see instructions):

These changes are consistent with the introduction of PHYS 304 (previously approved by the UGC) as a required "gateway" course to all PHYS315-and-up astronomy electives. Three of these electives (PHYS405, PHYS415, and PHYS 416) have minor course changes, associated with the introduction of PHYS304, and "Change in Existing Course" forms are being submitted concurrently with this program change proposal.