

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE
FORM C
Form Number: C1574**

Fields marked with * are required

Name of Initiator: Mousumi Roy **Email:** mroy@unm.edu **Phone Number:** 505 277-4521 **Date:** 11-13-2014

Associated Forms exist? No Initiator's Title Associate Professor: Earth and Planetary Sciences
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Branch Admin Phone 2771516

Proposed effective term

Semester Fall Year 2016

Course Information

Select Appropriate Program Undergraduate Degree Program
Name of New or Existing Program BA in Physics and Astrophysics
Select Category Degree Degree Type BA
Select Action Revision

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog. If there is a change, upload current and proposed requirements.

See current catalog for format within the respective college (upload a doc/pdf file)

[BACurrentNewRquirementsFormC.docx](#)

Does this change affect other departmental program/branch campuses? If yes, indicate below.

Reason(s) for Request (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

The Physics and Astronomy faculty wish to modify the requirements for the BA in Physics and Astrophysics degree program.

Upload a document that includes justification for the program, impact on long-range planning, detailed budget analysis and faculty workload implications.(upload a doc/pdf file)

[JustificationBAformC.docx](#)

Are you proposing a new undergraduate degree or new undergraduate certificate? If yes, upload the following documents.

Upload a two-page Executive Summary authorized by Associate Provost. (upload a doc/pdf file)

Upload memo from Associate Provost authorizing go-ahead to full proposal. (upload a doc/pdf file)

The Physics and Astronomy faculty have approved this change in order to align the BA in Physics and Astrophysics degree program with its original goal: to serve students who wish to build a solid training in physics, but who do not wish to pursue a career in scientific research.

For reference, here is the catalog description of the BA program:

The **B.A. degree** is designed for people interested in physics, astrophysics and science in general who are not seeking a career in scientific research. Rather, these students should use the flexibility within the program to choose minors or an additional major in other areas, such as management, education, communications, journalism, economics, history, political science, etc.

The proposed change increases the flexibility in the final two years; we feel the current requirements are unnecessarily restrictive in the choice of junior/senior classes. We are still requiring the same number of upper division classes as currently so the total number of required classes has not changed. We provide flexibility by requiring a core physics lecture class (from a wider list), and explicitly require a laboratory class; we retain the requirement of one Astronomy class.

The proposed change will be accommodated within our current undergraduate program assessment plan, specifically:

- 1) Assessment by the instructors (Instructor Reports) of critical 300 and 400 level courses
- 2) Continue with routine exit interviews
- 3) Continue with tracking of our graduates. We note here that two of our recent featured speakers at the Annual Physics and Astronomy Open House have been graduates of the BA program.

This proposed change will not impact the department's long-range plan, budget, or faculty workload.

Current Requirements:

B.A. in Physics and Astrophysics: ASTR 271; PHYC 290, **330; two courses chosen from PHYC **303, **307L or *405; three additional 3 credit hour upper-level courses in Physics or Astronomy, one of which must be in Astronomy, except for any one of the following problems courses: ASTR *455; PHYC *451, *452.

Required supportive courses: MATH 311, **316.

Proposed Change:

B.A. in Physics and Astrophysics: ASTR 271; PHYC 290, **330; one course chosen from PHYC **301, **303, *405, or *491; four additional 3 credit hour upper-level courses in Physics or Astronomy, one of which must be in Astronomy and one of which must be a laboratory class, except for any one of the following problems courses: ASTR *455; PHYC *451, *452.

Required supportive courses: MATH 311, **316.