1. CHECK YOUR “ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS” REPORT (AAR) IN BEARTRACKS

This is located in your “Manage Classes” icon in BearTracks, with the Academic Requirements Report link on the left hand side

- This report is a digital version of your degree requirements so you can track your progress against the requirements of your degree in real time
- Provides critical alerts for you to be aware of before you take the courses for credit
- Checks to make sure you are meeting all the requirements of your degree and easily shows you what elements of your degree that you are still missing

2. ENSURE YOU’VE COMPLETED YOUR JUNIOR CORE REQUIREMENTS:

- View available courses on our BSc General Degree Requirements Planning Sheet
  - *6 English
  - *6 Mathematical Sciences
  - *6 Physical Sciences
  - *6 Laboratory Sciences

3. LOOKING TO YOUR PHYSICAL SCIENCES MAJOR

- You need a minimum of *42 credits to complete this major
- This major can have a lot of labs so ensure you space out your Physical Sciences classes along with other lab courses so you don’t feel overwhelmed
  - Recommendation is taking no more than two labs per term
- CHEM 101 and CHEM 102 should be taken in the first year (which are part of your *6 in Physical Sciences for the Junior Core requirements)
- CHEM 261 and CHEM 263 should be taken in your first and/or second year to help open up opportunities for more senior (200-level and higher) level courses
  - If adding CHEM 261 to first year be careful with the number of labs that you are taking in that term
- PHYS 124 and 126 are considered equivalent to one another and PHYS 126 and 146 are considered equivalent
- PHYS 124 and 126 do not require a MATH calculus prerequisite/corequisite
- PHYS 144 and 146 do require a MATH calculus prerequisites or corequisites
  - PHYS 144 needs MATH 117, 134, 144 or 154 (MATH 144 recommended)
  - PHYS 146 need MATH 118, 136, 146, or 156 (MATH 146 recommended)
- PHYS 144 (124) and PHYS 146 (126) should be taken in the first year (which are part of your *6 in Physical Sciences for the Junior Core requirements)
- Strongly recommended to also take MATH 144 and MATH 146 in first year as well
- *3 of PHYS 271 (208) and *3 of CHEM 211, 241 or PHYS 294 should be taken in the
second year to help open up opportunities for more senior (200-level and higher) level courses

- There are some MATH prerequisite/corequisite courses that are needed for your ASTRO/GEOPH/MA PH/PHYS courses so ensure you are looking at the course descriptions to make sure you have those classes completed
- You need to have a **minimum of *12 credits** completed in Chemistry (CHEM)
- You need to have a **minimum of *12 credits** completed in Physics (PHYS)
- Types of courses that can be used towards the *12 Physical Sciences at 300+(✝) and *9 Physical Sciences(✝) options
  - There are 6 different subjects (✝) that can encompass the Physical Sciences major: Astronomy (ASTRO), Geophysics (GEOPH), Biochemistry (BIOCH), Mathematical Physics (MA PH), Chemistry (CHEM), Physics (PHYS)
- Where courses overlap and are applicable to both a major or minor the credits can't be split. For example, you can’t use GEOPH classes in both your Physical Sciences major and your Earth and Atmospheric Sciences minor. All GEOPH courses taken will be applied to either the major or minor but not split between both.
- With a Physical Sciences major you are **not permitted** to select Chemistry or Physics as your minor/double major.

4. LOOK TO YOUR MINOR OR DOUBLE MAJOR

- Another aspect of your degree is the **mandatory** second area of study
- You can pick a minor from Faculty of Science, Arts, Agriculture Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES), or Business or pick a double major from the Faculty of Science
  - Business minors require a new application and a set of prerequisite courses to be completed before being eligible
  - You can’t have the same minor or double major as your initial major
- If you haven’t declared your minor or double major you can do so on the SciForms web portal
- All possible options for a minor or double major can be viewed on our BSc General Degree Requirements Planning Sheet

5. OPTIONS/ELECTIVES IN MY DEGREE

- Exact credit minimums and maximums are listed in the BSc General Degree Requirement PDF
- **Arts options** (any courses offered by the Faculty of Arts)
- **Science options** (any courses offered by the Faculty of Science)
- Outside options (any courses not offered by the Faculty of Arts or Science)
6. TALK TO YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR

If you still have questions or concerns after reviewing all of this material you should contact your Academic Advisor.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

Create a balanced timetable: Do not register for more than two or three lab based courses per term as you will have lab assignments and exams in addition to regular course work.

Only register in courses for which you have the prerequisite: Students without the appropriate prerequisites will be removed from the course or credit will be withheld. Make sure to read the course description before you register in a course on Bear Tracks as Bear Tracks may not prevent you from registering in a course you don’t have the prerequisite for.

The class you want is full: If a class is full simply place the class on your watch list (found on BearTracks). You can also speak with the teaching department in charge of that class to see if anything else can be done or to see if a new section could be available.

Familiarize yourself with all courses. You can use the Course Listings in the U of A Calendar to search courses by prefix so that you can get an overview of course content, and prerequisites for courses offered at the U of A. Keep in mind that you will still need to check Bear Tracks to ensure the course is being offered.

Try something new. Your degree requirements are not just about fulfilling your major and minor. Why not try a course in an area you have always been interested in? Or, perhaps build some hands on experience into your degree by taking a research course. You can try entering a hobby or interest into the "Keyword or Phrase" search box in the Course Filter under Course Listings. For example, "sustainability". Leave all other search boxes as is. This will list all of the UofA courses which involve the topic of sustainability. screenshot?

Watch out for 100-level courses. All Faculty of Science degrees allow for a maximum of *42 at the 100-level, this includes junior core requirements. Know how many you have before registering in options courses. If you have reached the *42 maximum 100-level option courses may not count towards your degree.