



TWO DEGREES, ONE PATH

TRANSFER PATHWAY GUIDE 2025-2026

Associate in Science to
Bachelor of Science in Physics

Overview

Completion of the following curriculum will satisfy the requirements for the Associate in Science (AS) at a Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) institution and leads to the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Physics at Northern Kentucky University (NKU).

Applying to the KCTCS2NKU Program

Students can apply to participate in the pathway program by completing the online application on the NKU transfer webpage. Students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours at a KCTCS institution, enrolled in an associate degree program, plan to transfer to NKU, and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA at their KCTCS institution.

Degree Requirements for KCTCS

1) Completion of minimum 60 credit hours, 2) minimum cumulative GPA 2.0, 3) minimum of 15 credit hours earned at the institution awarding the degree, 4) demonstration of digital literacy, and 5) college success requirement.

Admission Requirements to NKU

Students completing an associate degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher will be accepted into NKU.

Degree Requirements for NKU

To earn a bachelor's degree at NKU, students must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours with at least 45 credit hours numbered 300 and above. In addition, at least 25% of the credit hours required for the degree and the last 30 credit hours must be completed at NKU. Students must have an overall GPA of 2.0 and meet all prerequisites for courses and requirements for the major.

General Transfer Information

Students must complete the online application to NKU. There is no application fee for students who are transferring from a KCTCS institution.

KCTCS Scholars Award: Students who are KY residents transferring directly from a KCTCS institution with at least 36 hours from that institution and minimum GPA of 3.0, were never enrolled as a degree-seeking student at NKU, and will be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours both fall and spring semester are eligible for a limited number of \$2,500 annual scholarships (\$1,250 per fall and spring). Students must gain admission to NKU by June 15 for fall and November 1 for spring to be eligible for a possible scholarship. Online accelerated programs are not eligible for the KCTCS Scholars Award.

KCTCS AS TO NKU BS IN PHYSICS CHECKLIST

Kentucky Community and Technical College System Institution

Category 1: KCTCS General Education Core Requirements

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
ENG 101	Writing I (WC)	3	ENG 101	
ENG 102	Writing II (WC)	3	ENG 102	
TBS XXX	Oral Communication (OC)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities Course (AH) – Heritage	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities Course (AH) – Humanities	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Sciences Course (SB)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Sciences Course (SB)	3	TBD XXX	
CHE 170/175	General College Chemistry I with Lab (NS)	5	CHE 120/120L	
CHE 180/185	General College Chemistry II with Lab II (SL)	5	CHE 121/121L	
MAT 175	Calculus I (QR)	5	MAT 129	
MAT 185	Calculus II (QR)	5	MAT 229	
	Subtotal General Education Core Courses	41		

TBS XXX means to be selected by KCTCS student.

TBD XXX means to be determined by NKU based on course selected.

For Social and Behavioral Sciences courses, two disciplines must be represented and different from those in the Arts and Humanities category.

Students who do not have a math ACT score of 27 or higher will need to complete MAT 150 before they can enroll in MAT 175.

Category 2: KCTCS AS Requirements

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
PHY 231/241	General University Physics I with Lab (SL)	5	PHY 220	
PHY 232/242	General University Physics II with Lab (SL)	5	PHY 222	
	Subtotal AS Requirement Courses	10		

Category 3: KCTCS Electives

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
	Digital Literacy	0-3		
	First-Year College Success Course/Experience	0-3		
MAT 275	Calculus III	4	MAT 329	
TBS XXX	Electives (if needed)	0-6	TBD XXX	

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
	Possibilities: MAT 150 College Algebra (if needed as prerequisite for MAT 175) MAT 285: Differential Equations			
	Subtotal Elective Courses	10		
	Total Associate Degree Hours	61		

Northern Kentucky University

Category 4: NKU Major Requirements for the BS in Physics

NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
CHE 120/120L	General Chemistry I with Lab	4	CHE 170/175	x
CHE 121/121L	General Chemistry II with Lab	4	CHE 180/185	x
MAT 129	Calculus I - QR	4	MAT 175	x
MAT 229	Calculus II	5	MAT 185	x
MAT 325	Differential Equations	3	MAT 285	
MAT 329	Calculus III	4	MAT 275	x
PHY 100	Science, Engineering, and Design	1		
PHY 220	University Physics I with Lab	4	PHY 231/PHY 241	x
PHY 222	University Physics II with Lab	4	PHY 232/PHY 242	x
PHY 224	University Physics III with Lab	4		
PHY 300	Intermediate Physics Lab	2		
PHY 310	Dynamics	3		
PHY 360	Thermodynamics	3		
PHY 361	Modern Physics I	3		
PHY 393	Physics Seminar	1		
PHY 405	Classical Mechanics	3		
PHY 410	Electromagnetic Theory	4		
PHY 460	Quantum Mechanics	3		
Select 1: PHY 301 AST 310	Select one course from the following: Advanced Physics Laboratory Astronomical Techniques	2-3		
Select 6 cr.: PHY 305 PHY 320 PHY 330 PHY 315 PHY 392 PHY 394	Select 6 credit hours from the following: Statics Physical Optics Mathematical Physics Introduction to Astrophysics Directed Research: Physics (1-3 credits) Topics: Physics (1-3 credits)	6		
NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS

PHY 396	Special Projects: Physics (1-3 credits)			
PHY 399	Readings in Physics (1-3 credits)			
PHY 420	Modern Physics II			
PHY 492	Undergraduate Research: Physics (1-3 credits)			
AST 315	Introduction to Astrophysics			
AST 325	Geology of the Planets			
AST 392	Directed Research: Astronomy (1-3 credits)			
AST 394	Topics: Astronomy			
AST 397	Special Projects: Astronomy (1-3 credits)			
AST 399	Independent Study in Astronomy (1-3 credits)			
AST 492	Directed Research: Astronomy (1-3 credits)			
	Subtotal Major Credit Hours at NKU	38-39		
	Subtotal Major Credit Hours at KCTCS	29		
	Total Major Credit Hours	76		

Category 6: Additional Requirements at NKU

NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
	Subtotal Minor/Focus Hours	6-24		
	Subtotal Elective (300/400 level) Hours	0-15		
	Total Baccalaureate Degree Credit Hour (with mathematics minor)	120		

Note: A minor in mathematics is recommended and requires two 3-credit-hour courses beyond those required for the physics degree.

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