Frequently Asked Questions
Please read this section first as it will help you understand the purpose of this guide, give you important information to understand and register for courses, as well as provide definitions for common phrases and terms used in post-secondary.

What is this guide?
This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the School of Arts & Sciences to help you register for courses towards your desired program. These guides are prepared using information gathered from RDC, Academic Calendars from Universities, and other resources. These guides only highlight major points related to transfer. We strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.

What is an Academic Calendar?
Think of these as the “terms and agreements” regarding your degree. Each university publishes an Academic Calendar each year that details university entrance requirements, degree and graduation requirements, and academic rules among many other things.

What are terms, and how many of them are there?
Terms are the period of time in which your studies take place. At RDC, we offer four terms.
- Fall term (September through December)
- Winter Term (January through April)
- Spring term (May through June): Spring term is a condensed term. We recommend only a maximum of two courses in the Spring. Course offerings are reduced in this term as well.
- Summer Term (July through August): Only select upgrading courses are currently available in this term.

My major/transfer university is not listed. What should I do?
There are many institutions all offering a diverse range of majors and routes related to Physics. There is no way we can capture all possible routes. At RDC, the majority of students are transferring to the University of Alberta (UAlberta) so we highlight this university as it best suits the coursework RDC offers.

If there is a different major at UAlberta that you are interested in, or, if you are interested in transferring to a different institution, please contact us at artscienceinfo@rdc.ab.ca.

University of Alberta offers three different ways to earn a Physics degree: What are these and what do they mean?

For many programs offered by the Faculty of Science at UAlberta, there are three ways to complete a degree. In most cases, the differences in these routes start to become noticeable at year 3.

Honors – This route typically requires students to maintain a specific course load and GPA to be eligible. Students primarily focus in their major during all years of study, and engage in a Directed Research Project.
Specialization – This route also typically requires students to maintain a specific course load and GPA to be eligible. Students primarily focus in their major during all years of study, but not engage in a Directed Research Project.

General – This route requires students to complete both a Major and a Minor. Overall, students will explore courses in a broader range of disciplines than compared to an Honors/Specialization program.

For more information on these routes and the various Physics programs, please visit the UAlberta Physics website.

**How many courses should I take a term?**
The traditional path you will see is 5 courses per term, 10 total (5 in the Fall, 5 in the Winter). However, you may have flexibility depending on your destination university and degree. Some students will complete 10 courses in a year by taking 4 in the Fall, 4 in the Winter, and 2 in the Spring (or some mixture). Some students will take 3-4 courses per term (6-8 per year) and take 5-6 years to complete their degree.

For students who are working towards an “Honors” or “Specialization” program, it is recommended to maintain a minimum course load of 24 credits during the Fall/Winter terms. All in all, proceed at a course load that works best for you. In most cases, to be considered for full time funding students need a minimum of 3 courses and 9 academic credits in Fall and Winter (if you are receiving funding, remember to check the stipulations on course load).

**What happens if I take less than 10 courses a year?**
You may need an extra term or year to complete your degree.

**What is a credit?**
A credit is what you earn for completing courses. To earn the Bachelor of Science, Physics degree from UAlberta, a student will need to earn 120 credits.

Most courses a student completes will be three credits. There are some courses that span a full year (Fall to Winter) that are six credits. As such, 120 credits is generally 40 courses.

**Why is it recommended to transfer after one year at RDC?**
The majority of the courses in this degree are only offered by UAlberta, so we do not have enough courses that a student could take a full two years (60 credits).

**How do I know what courses to take?**
- Use this guide and use the advice!
- Make sure the courses you take are transferable using Transfer Alberta.
- You should be taking university level and university transferable courses
  - “200” Level courses are Year 1 courses at RDC
  - “300” Level courses are Year 2 courses at RDC
  - (each institution will use different numbering conventions for their years)
RECOMMENDED COURSES

The following information will apply to students interested in applying to UAlberta. If transferring to another institution, please consult with the School of Arts & Sciences at artscienceninfo@rdc.ab.ca.

YEAR 1 SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL TERM</th>
<th>WINTER TERM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 241</td>
<td>PHYS 247</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 202 or 203</td>
<td>MATH 204</td>
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<td>MATH 221 (can take either term)</td>
<td>Arts Elective (see note below)</td>
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<td>Arts Elective (see note below)</td>
<td>Arts Elective (see note below)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Elective (see note below)</td>
<td>Science Elective (see note below)</td>
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NOTES:
1. Examples of available Arts & Science Electives for the current academic year can be viewed here: [https://rdc.ab.ca/node/80375/attachment](https://rdc.ab.ca/node/80375/attachment) (you can pick up this printout from the School of Arts & Sciences in Room 2203 or view on the Loop)

SCIENCE OPTIONS: Students pursuing Geophysics: Take CHEM 211 and CHEM 212 in place of the Science Options.

- ASTR 205 is also a recommended option for Physics majors

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

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<tr>
<th>Transfer Credit</th>
<th>Recommended to transfer after one year of study at RDC.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Applying for Transfer</td>
<td>Deadline typically March 1. Consult U of A timelines.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Apply to U of A here.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors and Specialization GPA</td>
<td>It is recommended students complete a course load of at least 24 credits over Fall and Winter terms. For GPA requirements, please click here. Possession of the minimum GPA does not guarantee entry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>How Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) calculated</td>
<td>Calculated on all university transferable coursework completed in the most recent two terms of study if they contain a minimum of 24 credits. If those two terms contain less than 24 credits, all work in the next most recent term(s) is included in the calculation until the minimum total of 24 credits is reached. Fall/Winter courses are considered Winter courses in these calculations. For applicants who have attempted less than 24 credits of transferable postsecondary work, the AGPA is based on all university or university transfer credits attempted. Note: Where the applicant has more than one passing grade for the same course at any institution, only the first passing grade is used in calculating the grade point average(s) for admission purposes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Transferable Grade</td>
<td>A minimum grade of C- must be achieved in order for course credit to be transferable. While courses with grades of D or F will not transfer, they remain on your transcript and will be used in calculation of your GPA. Please talk to an Academic Advisor as soon as possible if you feel you may be in jeopardy of not getting a C- in a course you are enrolled in.</td>
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PLEASE NOTE:

This document is designed to provide recommendations and general information related to transfer pathways that best suit Red Deer College (RDC) course offerings. There are many ways to create a schedule and complete your studies, and we recommend you familiarize yourself with the intricacies of the program and university you want to transfer into. We are here to assist in helping you navigate your studies and can connect you with resources as needed, but you are responsible for your course registration, class schedule, applications to transfer and other related matters. Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university that they wish to attend, and should contact appropriate university departments as required.

Please note that institutions can make changes to their program and/or transfer requirements without consulting RDC. As such, it is recommended you consult with the appropriate institutional information (i.e. university calendars, websites, advisors,) to gain the most up to date information as you progress through your studies.

You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major, or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit or admission requirements for future programs. Consult with the School of Arts & Sciences if you have any questions.