

NUCLEAR ENGINEERING, B.S.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Nuclear Engineering, a minimum of 129 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Requirements for the Major	111

27 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 9 credits of GN courses, 6 credits of GQ courses, 3 credits of GS courses, 9 credits of GWS courses. The remaining 18 General Education credits must be distinct from the Requirements for the Major.

Requirements for the Major

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
CHEM 111	Experimental Chemistry I	1
EE 212	Introduction to Electronic Measuring Systems	3
EMCH 211	Statics	3
EMCH 212	Dynamics	3
EMCH 213	Strength of Materials	3
EMCH 315	Mechanical Response of Engineering Materials	2
EMCH 316	Experimental Determination of Mechanical Response of Materials	1
MATH 230	Calculus and Vector Analysis	4
NUCE 310W	Issues in Nuclear Engineering	2
NUCE 321	Introduction to Thermal-Fluid Sciences for Nuclear Engineers - I	3
NUCE 322	Introduction to Thermal-Fluid Sciences for Nuclear Engineers - II	3
NUCE 403	Advanced Reactor Design	3
NUCE 420	Radiological Safety	3
NUCE 431W	Nuclear Reactor Core Design Synthesis	4
NUCE 451	Experiments in Reactor Physics	3
PHYS 214	General Physics: Wave Motion and Quantum Physics	2
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CHEM 110	Chemical Principles I	3
EDSGN 100	Cornerstone Engineering Design	3
ENGL 202C	Effective Writing: Technical Writing	3

MATH 140	Calculus With Analytic Geometry I	4
MATH 141	Calculus with Analytic Geometry II	4
MATH 251	Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations	4
NUCE 301	Fundamentals of Reactor Physics	4
NUCE 302	Introduction to Reactor Design	4
NUCE 309	Analytical Techniques for Nuclear Concept	3
NUCE 430	Design Principles of Reactor Systems	3
NUCE 450	Radiation Detection and Measurement	3
PHYS 211	General Physics: Mechanics	4
PHYS 212	General Physics: Electricity and Magnetism	4

Additional Courses

Select 1 credit of First-Year Seminar	1
CMPSC 200 Programming for Engineers with MATLAB or CMPSC 201 Programming for Engineers with C++	3
Select 3 credits from the following:	3
EBF 200 Introduction to Energy and Earth Sciences Economics	
ECON 102 Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy	
ECON 104 Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	
Select 6 credits, of which 3 credits must be designated as design, from the following:	6

BME 406 Medical Imaging	
NUCE 405 Nuclear and Radiochemistry	
NUCE 408 Radiation Shielding	
NUCE 409 Nuclear Materials	
NUCE 428 Radioactive Waste Control	
NUCE 470	
NUCE 490 Introduction to Plasmas	
NUCE 496 Independent studies	
NUCE 497 Special Topics	
500-level NUCE courses with approval of adviser	

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

CAS 100A Effective Speech or CAS 100B Effective Speech	3
ENGL 15 Rhetoric and Composition or ENGL 30H Honors Rhetoric and Composition	3

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 3 credits in General Technical Elective (GTE) courses from department list ^{1,2}	3
--	---

¹ These courses may have to be chosen so that the engineering design or engineering science requirements for the major are met.

² Students who complete Basic ROTC may substitute 6 of the ROTC credits for 3 credits of GTE and 3 credits of GHW.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general->

education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- **United States Cultures:** 3 credits
- **International Cultures:** 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.