Minor in Astronomy

Catalog Description

This minor is designed to provide students with a background in astronomy that focuses on answering the fundamental questions about our origins that humans have pondered over the ages. Building on an introductory survey of astronomy, students will explore the role that collisions play in altering planetary and stellar environments. The upper level requirements will offer students the choice of focusing on the origin and evolution of stars, our Solar System, our universe, and life elsewhere in the universe.

The minor will require 15-19 credits:
   Lower Level Requirements (6-10 credits):
      Completion of a course or sequence that provides an overview of the universe
      One of the following:
         ASTR 100 (Introduction to Astronomy)  (3 credits)
         ASTR 101 (General Astronomy)  (4 credits)
         ASTR 120 and 121 (Astrophysics 1 and 2)  (7 credits)
         or equivalent transfer course(s)
      Completion of   ASTR 220 (Collisions in Space)  (3 credits)
   Upper Level Requirements (9 credits):
      Completion of three courses from among the following:
         ASTR 300 (Stars and Stellar Systems)
         ASTR 330 (Solar System Astronomy)
         ASTR 340 (Origin of the Universe)
         ASTR 380 (Life in the Universe)
         or an upper level astronomy course approved by the advisor

No course with an earned grade below “C” may count toward a minor.
This minor is not open to astronomy, physics, or physical sciences majors.
A student may use a maximum of six credits (two courses) to satisfy the requirements of both a major and minor.
No more than six of the required credits (two courses) may be taken at an institution other than the University of Maryland, College Park.
At least six upper division credits applied to the minor must be taken at this university.

The departmental advisor for this program is Grace Deming, CSS 1247, 301-405-1562, deming@astro.umd.edu.
Students must make an appointment with the Astronomy Advisor in order to fill out the required paperwork for the minor.

Oversight and Record Keeping

Oversight of the minor program will be through the normal academic processes of the Department of Astronomy. The department’s Undergraduate Director will be responsible for ensuring that students are properly advised and that records are appropriately kept.

Prerequisites

ASTR 120 has MATH 115 as a pre or co-requisite.