

# Department of Physics

## Undergraduate Students

### Frequently Asked Questions

**The Physics (PHY) or Physical Science (PS) class I want to register for shows as closed. Why can't I add myself to a waitlist?**

- The class is full and the waitlist is at capacity. The Department of Physics cannot add students to a waitlist; only students can manage their waitlists.
  - Students may view their waitlists at: [See My Waitlists](#)

**What happens if the PHY lecture or lab that I want is full and I can't add myself to a waitlist? What about PS 303 or PS 304?**

- If you are trying to get into a PHY lecture, PHY lab, PS 303, or PS 304, continue to monitor your registration until the start of the academic semester.
  - [Undergraduate Academic Program Coordinator](#) will not be able to add you during the current registration cycle. Fall 2020 registration cycle is April 20 – May 1, 2020.
  - If you don't move off a waitlist and into the lecture or lab by end of the add drop period, you may meet with the Undergraduate Academic Program Coordinator **beginning on the 5th class day** (Sept. 1, 2020 for Fall 2020) between the hours of 8:00am to 4:00pm in RLM (PMA) 5.214 (walk-in only).
  - Registration cycle and class dates are subject to change, refer to [academic calendars](#) for future semesters.
- If there is physical space in the lecture or lab, we offer students a seat on a first-come, serve basis. Physics can't guarantee you a seat but it's an option during late registration.

**Can I contact faculty to get into a closed PHY lecture or lab or PS 303 or PS 304 class?**

- No. Only the [Undergraduate Academic Program Coordinator](#) in the Department of Physics can add you to a lecture or lab.
- Do not contact faculty for add requests.

**Why can't I add PHY 303K and PHY 103M?**

- You must earn a C- (or registration in) M408D or M408M and credit or registration for PHY 103M.
- If you're unable to register for this PHY sequence, please contact the [Undergraduate Academic Program Coordinator](#) to request a waiver.
  - We will verify completion and grade of your math class and grant a waiver to register for PHY 303K and PHY 103M. In addition, please register for 103M **before** adding PHY 303K to your schedule. The registration system must recognize PHY 303K and PHY 103M are taken concurrently.

**Can I switch from an algebra-based Physics course to a calculus-based Physics course?**

- No, however, you can move from a calculus-based PHY class to an algebra-based PHY class.
  - For example, if you took PHY 317K or PHY 117M in one semester, you can take PHY 302L or PHY 102N the next semester.
- Check with your departmental advisor to ensure you meet the requirements for your degree plan if you switch PHY sequences.

**I want to register for PS 304, but I haven't taken PS 303.**

- If you've taken a PHY class in a previous semester, such as PHY 301, 302K, 303K, 317K, or 309K, and would like to take PS 304, please email the [Undergraduate Academic Program Coordinator](#) to request a waiver and include proof that you completed the PHY class.
  - Upon verification, you will be granted a waiver to register for PS 304.

**I am graduating this semester and need a PHY or PS class to graduate.**

- Contact the [graduation help desk](#), their office works with the Undergraduate Academic Program Coordinator for students who need a PHY or PS class to graduate timely.

**I am not required to complete a PHY lab as part of my degree requirement for graduation. Can I take the PHY lecture by itself?**

- Yes. If you don't need a PHY lab as part of your degree requirement for graduation, you can take a PHY lecture by itself.
  - **Note!** Verify with your departmental advisor to ensure this is accurate for your degree plan.

**I accidentally dropped myself from a lecture/lab or I was dropped by the Registrar's office for a tuition payment related issue.**

- Email the [Undergraduate Academic Program Coordinator](#) to add the original lecture/lab to your schedule.

**I am a Physics student and I am interested in an independent study or research course (PHY 371C, PHY 379H, or PHY 670TA / PHY 670TB)**

- Fill out the [undergraduate independent study/research course form](#) and obtain signatures from the sponsoring faculty and [Undergraduate Faculty Advisor](#) before being added by the Undergraduate Academic Program Coordinator.

**Does the Physics Department offer tutoring for undergraduate students?**

- Yes, Physics offers the following options:
  - A list of [private tutors](#) (physics graduate students) who you can hire at an hourly rate.
  - Free tutoring for PHY classes at our coaching tables on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of RLM during the hours of 9:00AM-5:00pm M-F.
- [Sanger Learning Center](#) offers free drop-in and appointment tutoring, peer academic coaching, math refreshers and reviews, and peer study groups.