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 5th 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.