

FALL 2026 SUGGESTED COURSES

Physics (PHYS)

Course Load

As you adjust to Cal Poly and/or a new environment, we recommend enrolling in **12-16 units, with no more than 3 labs**. You can determine if your course has a lab by reading the course description. All course descriptions, including prerequisites, can be found in the [Cal Poly Catalog](#).

For even more context and help, refer to the Physics Department [curriculum and course information](#), especially the Transfer Student Sample Flowcharts (*coming soon*).

Course Suggestions

MAJOR

- Take **Phys 1100**: Introduction to the Physics Major (1 unit)
- If you have credit in PHYS 1141& 1143 , but not PHYS 2211, take **PHYS 2211: General Physics III: Modern Physics** (4 units).
 - If not fall, plan to take **PHYS 2211** in Spring semester.
- Take **PHYS 3305**: Classical Mechanics I (4 units) in Fall 2026.
- Take **PHYS 3316**: Instrumentation and Techniques of Experimental Physics (4 units) in Fall 2026.
- Expect to take **PHYS 3320**: Methods of Theoretical Physics in Spring 2027.
- If needed, take the next appropriate **MATH** course based on the prerequisites you have satisfied.

GENERAL EDUCATION

If needed, complete any remaining lower-division GE courses. Otherwise, select an upper-division GE course from Upper-Division 3 or Upper-Division 4.

Note: Completion of **PHYS 3305**: Classical Mechanics I (a required course in the Physics major) will satisfy Upper-Division 2/5.

Other Graduation Requirements

GWR

Completion of **PHYS 3339**: Communicating Physics (a required course in the Physics major) will satisfy the Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR). PHYS 3339 is a co-requisite with PHYS 3340, offered in Spring semesters only.

USCP

Students must satisfy the [United States Cultural Pluralism \(USCP\)](#) requirement. Please [click here](#) for a list of USCP courses in the Cal Poly catalog.

Additional Information

PERMISSION NUMBERS

If you need a permission number for a PHYS or MATH class, please reach out to Michelle Wardrop in the Physics Department office, physics@calpoly.edu, who will assist you. For other classes, please contact the instructor. After the fourth day of instruction, permission numbers are available directly from course instructors, who control enrollment through the add/drop deadline.

DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFO

- [Building 180 \(Baker Science\), Room 204](#)
- physics.calpoly.edu
- physics@calpoly.edu
- 805-756-2448

BAILEY COLLEGE STUDENT SERVICES CONTACT INFO

- [Building 53 \(Science North\), Room 211](#)
- csmadvising.calpoly.edu and prehealth.calpoly.edu
- csmadvising@calpoly.edu and prehealth@calpoly.edu
- 805-756-2615