

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When are general physics courses offered?

All of the general physics courses are offered during the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. During the summer, the courses are offered only during Summer C (ten-weeks). A student should not plan to take both semesters of physics over the summer term.

Q: What is the difference between PHY 2053/PHY 2054 and PHY 2048/PHY 2049?

PHY 2053/PHY 2054 is the algebra-based physics sequence. These courses do not require permits for registration unless you are taking a lecture without a lab. The system does not enforce pre-requisites for this sequence; however, it is strongly encouraged for students to take college algebra and pre-calculus/trigonometry prior to enrolling in these courses. The material in this sequence provides a more general overview of physics with somewhat less detail than those who take calculus based PHY 2048/PHY 2049.

PHY 2048/PHY 2049 is the calculus-based physics sequence. Calculus I is required to be complete prior to taking PHY 2048 and Calculus II is required to be complete prior to taking PHY 2049. The sequence of PHY 2048/PHY 2049 does not include the modern/nuclear physics material and ends with light and optics.

Q: What is Enriched Physics and am I eligible to take it?

PHY 2060 Enriched Physics I and PHY 2061 Enriched Physics II are interchangeable courses for PHY 2048 and PHY 2049. This course sequence provides smaller sections and more challenging coursework than PHY 2048/2049. Enriched Physics courses require pre-requisites to be completed with an A or B and require permits (<http://physics.usf.edu/ug/advising/tce/>) for registration. PHY 2060 co-requisites include PHZ 2102 and PHY 2048L. PHY 2061 co-requisites include PHZ 2103 and PHY 2049L. After PHY 2060 (or PHY 2048), you are allowed to take either PHY 2049 or PHY 2061, depending on meeting pre-requisite requirements.

Enriched Physics is open to students of all majors; however, you will want to confirm with your major advisor that the course is degree applicable. If you also intend on taking the courses as admissions requirements to a graduate school or health professional school, consult the admissions representatives of the school that you intend on applying to about transferability.

Q: Which course sequence should I take for my major?

Always consult with your major advisor prior to registering for any physics course to determine which sequence is applicable to your major. If you do not have Calculus II credit or do not plan to take Calculus II for your degree, you should not start the PHY 2048/2049 sequence.

Q: What grade is required for the next physics course in my sequence?

Pre-requisite coursework must be passed with a C to be granted a permit for the next Physics course in the sequence, even if a C- may be considered passing for your major.

Q: Are there any courses that you recommend if I'm unsure of my physics foundational knowledge?

PHY 2020 Conceptual Physics is an optional 3 credit course that you can take prior to PHY 2048/2049 and PHY 2053/2054. The emphasis for this course is placed on using physics to describe how common things work. No previous physics knowledge is required.

There are also one-hour optional Problem Solving courses for both Physics I (PHZ 2102) and Physics II (PHZ 2103). These courses are intended to supplement the material learned in their coordinating lectures. Students who opt to take Enriched Physics I and II are required to take the problem solving courses.

Q: I am not doing well in my lecture but I am passing my lab. Am I able to withdraw from my lecture and keep my lab?

Email your Physics advisor at physicsadvise@usf.edu and be sure to include all of the following information in your email:

Your subject line must read: Withdraw from Lecture, Keep Lab

Body of the email must include U# and course name and number for the chemistry lecture from which you wish to withdraw (ex. PHY 2048 Calculus Based Physics I).

Courses that are eligible for this permit are: PHY 2048, PHY 2049, PHY 2053, PHY 2054, PHY 2060, and PHY 2061.

Once a permit is issued, you must withdraw yourself from the lecture via OASIS.

Your withdrawal eligibility is pending any remaining available withdrawals prior to the withdrawal deadline. Withdrawing from the Physics lecture will count towards your total number of allotted withdrawals, based on the USF Withdrawal Policy, implemented in the Fall 2011 semester.

Permits are not granted if you intend on withdrawing from your lab only. If you are withdrawing from your lab, you must withdraw from the coordinating lecture at the same time.

Q: How do I receive credit for physics courses that I took at another college/university?

Coursework from out-of-state and/or private institutions require course evaluations. For full instructions on how to submit a course evaluation, please refer to the following link: <http://physics.usf.edu/ug/advising/tce/>. Be mindful that you will need your transfer course evaluation to be completed prior to being granted a permit for the next course(s) your sequence.

If your coursework is from an in-state college/university and is not yet posted to Degreeworks, you can still request a permit for the next course in your sequence. You will need to ensure that you upload documentation (preferably a screenshot of your unofficial transcript with final grade(s)) within your permit request showing that you have passed the pre-requisite requirements.

Q: I have credit for PHY 2053L/PHY 2054L. Will I still have to take PHY 2048L/PHY 2049L with the coordinating lecture?

No, you will not be required to take PHY 2048L/PHY 2049L if you have credit for PHY 2053L/PHY 2054L and vice versa. You will need to request a lecture only permit for your coordinating lectures via <http://physics.usf.edu/forms/permit.aspx>.

Q: Is there a waitlist for closed sections?

There are no waitlists for Physics coursework. We recommend for you to check the OASIS class schedule search to see if there are any updates to course availability. Sections may re-open during the first day of classes when students are dropped for non-attendance.

Q: I have a quick question. Can I drop by your office?

If you have any questions, email PhysicsAdvise@usf with your U# and inquiry. I have set walk-in hours, which can be found on the Physics CANVAS page and <http://physics.usf.edu/ug/advising/>. If you have a form that needs review and signing, you can drop it off for me at SCA 203 and I will contact you once it's ready for pick-up.