

Physics Department Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When are general physics courses offered?

General physics courses are offered during the Fall, Spring, and Summer C semesters. Summer C is a single, ten week semester. For this reason, a student cannot take both semesters of physics at USF 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. It is designed for those in life science majors and includes some modern and nuclear physics.

PHY 2048/PHY 2049 is the calculus based sequence. It is designed for engineering and physical science majors. Calculus I is a prerequisite for PHY 2048 and Calculus II is a prerequisite for PHY 2049. The mathematically rigorous treatment does not allow time for the inclusion of modern or nuclear physics.

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

Enriched Physics 1 (PHY 2060) and Enriched Physics II (PHY 2061) may be taken in place of PHY 2048 and PHY 2049. These courses are intended for students with good math skills and a strong interest in physics. They are open to any major. The prerequisites are the same as those of PHY 2048 and PHY 2049, but require grades of at least a B. Students are allowed to move between sequences. For example, having completed PHY 2048 a student might opt to take PHY 2061. Conversely, having completed PHY 2060 a student might opt to take PHY 2049.

The Enriched Physics courses do not have separate labs. PHY 2060 students should register for a PHY 2048L lab, and PHY 2061 students should register for a PHY 2049L lab.

You may request a permit for Enriched Physics at <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/physics/undergraduate/advising.aspx> .

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 credit for Calculus I, or do not plan to take Calculus II, you should not register for the calculus based sequence (PHY 2048/2049, PHY 2060/2061).

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

Prerequisite coursework must be passed with a C-. Prerequisite courses for PHY2060/2061 must be completed with at least a B-.

Q: What if I don't believe I am ready to take physics?

You might consider taking Conceptual Physics (PHY 2020) before you start one of the sequences described above. There are also optional Problem Solving courses associated with the algebra and calculus based sequences. PHZ 2104 and PHZ 2105 are associated with PHY 2053 and PHY 2054. PHZ 2102 and PHZ 2103 are associated with PHY 2048 and PHY 2049.

Q: Can withdraw from my lecture and keep my lab?

Yes, if you are nearing the midterm and performing poorly in the lecture course. The Withdraw from Co-req Form can be found at this link:

<https://secure.cas.usf.edu/depts/bio/bioadvise/forms/co-reg-petition.aspx>

Please make sure you submit this request several days prior to the semester's Withdrawal Deadline to allow time to process the permit request. Once the permit is issued, you must withdraw yourself from the lecture using OASIS. Your withdrawal eligibility is pending any remaining available withdrawals prior to the withdrawal deadline. Your withdrawal counts towards your total number of allotted withdrawals per the USF Withdrawal Policy.

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:

<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/physics/undergraduate/advising.aspx>

You will need your transfer course evaluation to be completed before you are eligible for a permit to take the next course in the 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 prerequisite 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 using the following link.

<http://physics.usf.edu/forms/permit.aspx>.

Q: Is there a wait list for closed sections?

There are no wait lists for Physics coursework.

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. We are currently working remotely.