FAQs about Course Prerequisites
UC San Diego Physics

What is a prerequisite?
A prerequisite (aka pre-req) is a course that must be completed prior to taking a certain course.

Can I take pre-comms for P/NP credit?
If the pre-req is not also applying to your major/minor/GEs, the pre-req may be taken for P/NP credit or for a letter grade - the choice is yours. If the pre-req is applying to your major, ask your major dept. which grading option you’re permitted to choose. If the pre-req is applying to your minor, ask your minor dept. which grading option you’re permitted to choose. If the pre-req is applying to your GEs, ask your college which grading option you’re permitted to choose.

Do I have to complete a pre-req that’s not required by my major?
Yes, you do. Pre-reqs belong to the courses themselves and not to any particular major / minor / GE / med / grad-prep program, so there may be situations in which you will need to take courses that are not part of your major / minor / GE / med / grad-prep program if they are listed as pre-reqs for courses that are part of your major / minor / GE / med / grad-prep program.

Where can I see the physics course pre-reqs?
Physics Courses section of the UCSD General Catalog
Online Schedule of Classes
WebReg

How will WebReg behave in regards to pre-reqs?
The system will block a student from enrolling if they have not met all of the listed pre-reqs for a course. If enrolling for summer courses, keep in mind that only courses you are actually enrolled in can count towards pre-reqs (planned and/or waitlisted courses do not count towards pre-reqs). Please continue reading for our policies on pre-reqs.

What is the Physics Department policy on pre-reqs and how are requests for exceptions handled?
Pre-reqs must be taken in advance and this is enforced across the board for every student enrolling in our courses; a grade of D or above is accepted. If you are missing one/more pre-reqs you cannot proceed with your proposed enrollment(s). Instead, you will need to enroll in the missing pre-req(s). We will NOT grant exceptions to our pre-req policies.

May I take a pre-req concurrently with my physics course?
No, you may not. Pre-reqs must be taken in advance and this is enforced across the board for every student enrolling in our courses; a grade of D or above is accepted. If you are missing one/more pre-reqs you cannot proceed with your proposed enrollment(s). Instead, you will need to enroll in the missing pre-req(s). We will NOT grant exceptions to our pre-req policies.

How can I get cleared to enroll in a physics course if I took a pre-req outside of UC San Diego that hasn’t yet been added to my record?
You will need to use the campus’ Enrollment Authorization System (EASy) to request preauthorization to enroll/waitlist. Be sure to read the yellow note that pops up when selecting our course in EASy before completing and submitting your request.

Have a pre-req question not addressed in the info. above?
Contact us through VAC to let us know!