

Pre-reqs / Co-reqs – UCSD Physics

There are two types of requisites connected to UCSD courses:

- **Prerequisites (pre-reqs):** Courses that must be completed prior to taking a certain course.
- **Corequisites (co-reqs):** Courses that are expected to be taken at the same time as (aka concurrently with) a certain course.

Course requisites 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 requisites for courses that are part of your major/minor/GE/med/grad-prep program. If taking a course simply to satisfy course requisites (meaning the course is not applying towards your major/minor), the course can be taken for P/NP credit *or* for a letter grade - the choice is yours.

There are three places where students can see the requisites for physics courses:

- Physics Courses section of the UCSD General Catalog
- Online Schedule of Classes
- WebReg

Note: In Physics, every lower division lab has a lecture co-req, but not every lower division lecture has a lab co-req. Advanced Placement (AP) Physics and International Baccalaureate (IB) Physics **cannot** exempt from any physics lab.

This is how WebReg will behave in relation to physics course requisites:

- **Pre-reqs:** The system will block a student from enrolling if they have not met **all** of the listed pre-reqs for a course. Keep in mind that only courses you are actually enrolled in can count towards pre-reqs (waitlisted courses do not count towards pre-reqs).
- **Co-reqs:** The system will alert you if a course has one/more co-reqs; **the warning message will appear even if you've already completed the co-req(s).** Please continue reading for more clarification on prior completion of co-reqs.

These are our departmental policies regarding course requisites:

Pre-reqs: Pre-reqs are 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.**

Co-reqs: Enrollment in co-reqs is strictly on the honor system; co-reqs **are not** enforced by WebReg or by the Physics Department. **Unless you have already completed all listed co-req(s) (in which case there is no need to recomplete them), we encourage you to enroll in the listed co-reqs because:**

- In many cases, courses that are listed as co-reqs are connected in some way that could affect a student's ability to succeed (ex. lecture courses that have corresponding labs, math courses that cover material used in science classes, etc.).
- For courses that are part of a sequence, co-reqs usually become prerequisites for the next course in the sequence. Not enrolling in co-reqs could prevent a student from being eligible to immediately move to the next course in a sequence (ex. Math 20B is a co-req for PHYS 2A and is a pre-req for PHYS 2B; you can only proceed to PHYS 2B after completing PHYS 2A and Math 20B). Always check pre-reqs for courses you plan to take in the future to see if not taking the co-req will adversely affect you (see links above).

No special clearance is required to get/remain enrolled in a physics course without the co-req(s) and you do not need to alert us if you decide to take a physics course without the co-req.