

Which AP Physics Course?

AP Physics 1-2 Course Description

This course provides a systematic introduction to the main principles of physics and emphasizes the development of conceptual understanding and problem-solving ability using algebra and trigonometry. In most colleges, this is a one-year terminal course and is not the usual preparation for more advanced physics and engineering courses. However, the AP Physics 1-2 course provides a foundation in physics for students in the life sciences, pre-medicine, and some applied sciences, as well as other fields not directly related to science.

Students may upon successful completion of the course take the Advanced Placement Test and **may** receive up to 8 hours of non-calculus based college physics credit from their college or institution of study.

AP Physics C Course Description

This course ordinarily forms the first part of the college sequence that serves as the foundation in physics for students majoring in the physical sciences or engineering. Methods of calculus are used wherever appropriate in formulating physical principles and in applying them to physical problems. Students need to either have taken Calculus or be concurrently enrolled. The sequence is more intensive and analytic than that in the AP Physics 1-2 course. In addition to developing conceptual understanding, strong emphasis is placed on solving a variety of challenging problems. The subject matter of the AP Physics C course is mechanics and electricity & magnetism, with approximately equal emphasis on these two areas. It should be noted that although fewer topics are covered in Physics C than in Physics 1-2, they are covered in greater depth and with greater analytical and mathematical sophistication.

Students may upon successful completion of the course take the Advanced Placement Test and **may** receive up to 8 hours of calculus based college physics credit from their college or institution of study.

