

Operating Systems (02340123) Functions Reference - Spring 2025

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1 Process Management

`fork`

Declaration: `pid_t fork(void);`

Usage/Explanation: Creates a child process by duplicating the calling process.

Parameters:

- None

Return Values: Returns 0 to child, PID of child to parent, -1 on error.

Additional:

`wait`

Declaration: `pid_t wait(int *wstatus);`

Usage/Explanation: Waits for a child process to change state.

Parameters:

- `wstatus`: Pointer to store child's status

Return Values: Returns child's PID or -1 on error.

Additional: Use macros `WIFEXITED`, `WEXITSTATUS` to interpret status.

Cheat Sheet

Function	Summary
<code>fork()</code>	Creates a new child process, identical to the parent initially.
<code>wait()</code>	Suspends execution until a child process ends.