

NAME

sem_getvalue – get the value of a semaphore

LIBRARY

POSIX threads library (*libpthread*, *-lpthread*)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <semaphore.h>
```

```
int sem_getvalue(sem_t *restrict sem, int *restrict sval);
```

DESCRIPTION

sem_getvalue() places the current value of the semaphore pointed to *sem* into the integer pointed to by *sval*.

If one or more processes or threads are blocked waiting to lock the semaphore with **sem_wait(3)**, POSIX.1 permits two possibilities for the value returned in *sval*: either 0 is returned; or a negative number whose absolute value is the count of the number of processes and threads currently blocked in **sem_wait(3)**. Linux adopts the former behavior.

RETURN VALUE

sem_getvalue() returns 0 on success; on error, -1 is returned and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS**EINVAL**

sem is not a valid semaphore. (The glibc implementation currently does not check whether *sem* is valid.)

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see **attributes(7)**.

Interface	Attribute	Value
sem_getvalue()	Thread safety	MT-Safe

STANDARDS

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008.

NOTES

The value of the semaphore may already have changed by the time **sem_getvalue()** returns.

SEE ALSO

sem_post(3), **sem_wait(3)**, **sem_overview(7)**