

**Carnegie Mellon University  
Department of Physics  
Testing Credit, Waiver, and Transfer Credit Policies**

**Criteria for Gaining *Credit* for Physics Courses by Exam:**

Advanced Placement Exam

- 5 on “Physics C: Mechanics” gives credit for 33-111 or 33-106  
AND/OR  
5 on “Physics C: E&M” gives credit for 33-112 or 33-107

Cambridge Exam (A level only):

- A or B gives credit for 33-111 or 33-106 AND 33-112 or 33-107

International Baccalaureate (highest level only; standard level not accepted)

7 gives credit for 33-111 or 33-106 only. Then the student may request waiver for 33-112 or 33-107 by following the procedure for “Gaining Waiver of a Physics requirement by Exam”, described below.

Student must provide proof of exam score and then they get transfer credit.

**Criteria for Gaining *Waiver* of a Physics Requirement by Exam:**

This applies only to students who

(a) lived in another country and none of the above exams was available at their school;  
OR

(b) graduated from a US high school where the AP Physics course was not offered.

It does not apply to students who could have taken the exams but did not.

**Procedure for Gaining *Waiver* of a Physics Requirement by Exam:**

Students who have not taken the standardized exams, as stated above, and qualify, as stated above, may contact Physics Department by writing to Kunal Ghosh (kghosh@andrew.cmu.edu) and/or visiting a Physics Department advisor no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Friday of the Orientation Week. Then, if judged by Physics Department that the student may qualify for further testing, the student will need to attend an interview to be conducted by the Physics Department at a time given to the student within 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. On the Saturday of the Orientation Week.

After the interview, Physics Department may additionally ask the student to take a comprehensive exam given in the course the student is seeking waiver for to prove their knowledge of the course material. If so needed, there will be two such exams: one for waiver in 33-106 or 33-111; and the second for waiver in 33-107 or 33-112.

After the interview and, possibly, the exam, Physics Department will notify the student's home department or college suggesting a waiver (or not) of that course requirement. Physics Department does not award credit or waiver. It is up to the student's home department or college.

### **Criteria for Gaining Transfer *Credit* for Physics Courses From Another College:**

#### Requirements on the course:

1. Must meet for equivalent total hours (not counting any lab component).
2. Must be calculus based.
3. Must cover almost all of the material in the equivalent Carnegie Mellon course (should consider waiving the waves part of Physics II but warn student it is their responsibility to pick up that material).

### **Procedure for Gaining Transfer *Credit* for Physics Courses From Another College:**

- a) The student obtains the correct transfer of credit form from their College Dean's office and fills it out.
- b) The student makes hard copies of:
  1. The course description from the catalogue of the course they intend to take (a hard copy of the web page is sufficient). This must indicate that the course is calculus-based, has similar content to 33-106, and is meeting a comparable number of total hours to 33-106 (about 60 hrs). If it only lists a pre- or co-requisite math course by number, please also include the course description of the math course listed. The source must be indicated (e.g., Catalog, URL, etc.)
  2. Something (e.g. something from the Web page) that states that the College is a 4 yr accredited BS or BA granting institution or an accredited community college.
- c.) The student bring those items to the office of the Student Coordinator of the Physics Department in Wean 7319.
- d.) The Physics Department will review them and approve them if they are OK.

NOTE: In cases that deserve exception, all of this can be done electronically (e-mail with links, or attachments, etc.) if permitted by the Dean of the student's College.