Students are admitted to UCSC with a "proposed major" in most cases, and later petition to officially declare the major. Admission to UCSC does not guarantee acceptance into a particular major. Students must be declared in a major by the end of the second year (or equivalent), so learning about and preparing for a major is a primary goal for first-year students.

**Major:** PHYSICS/ASTROPHYSICS

**Importance of an early start:**
This is a course-intensive and/or highly sequential program, and students who intend to pursue this major must begin taking classes for the major in their first term at UCSC.

**Qualification requirements and/or prerequisites for the major:**
To qualify for any of the physics majors, students must achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.7 or greater in the following courses or their equivalents:
- Phys 5A
- Phys 5B
- Phys 5C

**Frosh who intend to pursue this major should do the following things prior to the beginning of fall term...**

- Determine your Math Placement by completing an assessment at [http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/math-placement/mp-aleks-overview.html](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/math-placement/mp-aleks-overview.html). If you have completed a college-level math course, or have scored 3 or better on an AP or IB calculus exam, you may be able to use that for placement instead of the ALEKS assessment.
- Students who have taken college-level transferable classes that may apply to the requirements of this major should submit an unofficial transcript to the adviser prior to July 1, in addition to the official transcript that is required by the UCSC Admissions Office.

**...and should take these courses their first term:**

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**Sample first year plan:**

**Fall:**
- Physics 5A/L: *Intro to Physics I* and Lab, and
- Math 19A: *Calculus for Science, Engineering, and Mathematics*

**Winter:**
- Physics 5B/M: *Intro to Physics II* and Lab, and
- Math 19B: *Calculus for Science, Engineering, and Mathematics*

**Spring:**
- Physics 5C/N: *Intro to Physics III* and Lab, and
- Math 23A: *Multivariable Calculus*

**Skills important for success in this major:**
Critical and logical thought, complex problem solving using scientific rules and methods, deductive and inductive reasoning.

**Other information:**
It is important to place into Math 19A as it is a co-requisite to Physics 5A/L. Students who do not place into Math 19A may take more than four years to complete degree requirements. Students in this major should not take the Math 11A/B calculus series.

**Links to More Information:**
- [http://admissions.ucsc.edu/academics/majors/](http://admissions.ucsc.edu/academics/majors/) (general info)
- [http://registrar.ucsc.edu/catalog/programs-courses/](http://registrar.ucsc.edu/catalog/programs-courses/) (major requirements, course descriptions, etc.)

**Questions? Contact an Adviser!**
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