## 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

See [http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/math-placement/mp-course-credit.html](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/math-placement/mp-course-credit.html) for information on placement based on college courses, and [http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/math-placement/mp-test-credit.html](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/math-placement/mp-test-credit.html) for information on placement based on AP exams.

### 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 in ALEKS before July 17 at [http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/mp-assessment-guidelines.html](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/mp-assessment-guidelines.html). If you completed a college-level math course, or 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. See [http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/mp-course-credit.html](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/mp-course-credit.html) for information on placement based on college courses, and [http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/mp-test-credit.html](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/mp-test-credit.html) for information on placement based on AP exams.

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

- Introductory Calculus and Physics courses

### 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?

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