UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ
NEW STUDENT MAJOR ADVISING SUMMARY FOR 2018-2019 FROSH

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 2.70 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 in ALEKS as soon as possible, and by July 16 at the very latest. See https://mathcoach.sites.ucsc.edu for information about ALEKS. If you completed a college-level math course, or scored 3 or better on an AP calculus exam, or 5 or better on an IBH mathematics exam, you may be able to use that for placement instead of the ALEKS assessment. See https://mathcoach.sites.ucsc.edu/courses/course-credit/ for information on placement based on college courses or AP/IBH.
- ❏ 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:

Introductory Calculus and Physics courses

Sample first year plan:

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

Winter: PHYS 5B/M: *Intro to Physics II* and Lab, and
MATH 23A: *Multivariable Calculus*

Spring: PHYS 5C/N: *Intro to Physics III* and Lab, and
MATH 23B: *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 19 as MATH 19AB are prerequisites and co-requisites to Physics 5A/L, 5B/M and 5C/N. Students who do not place into MATH 19 may take more than four years to complete degree requirements. Students in this major should not take the MATH 11 and AMS 11 calculus series.

Links to More Information:

http://admissions.ucsc.edu/academics/majors/ (general info)
http://registrar.ucsc.edu/catalog/programs-courses/
(major requirements, course descriptions, etc.)
http://www.physics.ucsc.edu/academics/ugrad/ (program website)

Questions? Contact an Adviser!

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