

SUMMER COURSES IN PHYSICS

DEPARTMENT POLICY – 2011 SEPTEMBER

Each year, a substantial number of Colgate students seek permission to take one or more introductory physics courses at other colleges or universities in order to satisfy Colgate requirements. In most cases, students are genuinely concerned with course scheduling conflicts or heavy courseloads during the regular academic year. However, the quality of instruction in summer courses at other institutions can vary tremendously: to grant Colgate credit, we must be sure that the summer course is equivalent to the corresponding Colgate course in content, workload, and standards of achievement. Be aware that our standards are high. For this reason, the following guidelines will be used to assess summer transfer credit requests.

You should first refer to the University's transfer of course credit policies, which can be found at <http://www.colgate.edu/offices/academic/registrar/transferecredit>.

1. Permission to take a Physics summer course at an accredited 4-year college or university for Colgate credit must be obtained from the Physics and Astronomy Department Chair before you take the course. Printed information must be provided by the student for the department to evaluate the summer course: the summer catalogue showing the course number, title and short description; hours of class and lab meetings; syllabus; and name of the textbook. The syllabus may be from a previous summer.
2. Each course should meet for a minimum of 5 weeks and 40 classroom hours, which is comparable to the corresponding Colgate Physics course. The 40 classroom hours exclude scheduled exam periods. Thus, a 5-week course should meet for 8 hours per week. It is simply impossible to master a semester's material in less time, no matter how intense the timetable.
3. Each course should have a laboratory that meets at least 10 times, for at least 3 hours per meeting, to be equivalent with Colgate's lab expectations. Courses that do not have at least 30 hours of scheduled laboratory time will not receive the Colgate laboratory 0.25 credit, but courses that have 20 to 29 hours of scheduled laboratory time will still receive the designation "with laboratory" on the transcript.
4. Students who demonstrate competence by scoring a "B" or better in the summer course will automatically be granted Colgate transfer credit by the Registrar's Office. Students who receive a summer course grade below "B" will NOT receive transfer credit. However, students who received a course grade between "B-" and "C" may request to take a two-hour equivalency exam given at Colgate during the first week of the fall semester. (Students who will be off-campus during the fall semester can either arrange in advance to take the exam at Colgate within three weeks of completing the summer course or during the first week of the subsequent spring semester.) Students must receive a grade of "C" or better on the equivalency exam in order to receive transfer credit. The exam will be equivalent in level and coverage to the final exam of the corresponding Colgate course.

I understand that acceptance of transfer credits for Physics summer courses is contingent upon my having followed the procedures in the "Colgate University Requirements for Transfer Summer / Intersession Courses" and the policy described above.

Printed name

Signature

Date

The above guidelines are meant to apply primarily to courses that are not required for concentration in Physics or Astronomy. Concentration credit is another matter, and any such requests must be treated with special care.