Advanced Placement in Physics

Many incoming students may have taken AP, IB, or A-Levels exams already, but this year we are asking all students interested in advanced placement into PHYS 114 (Introductory Electricity and Magnetism) or PHYS 200 (Modern Physics-Sophomore Level) to take Vassar’s Physics Placement Exam.

Please click the link below to begin the one-hour placement exam.

**First-Year Physics Placement Exam**

**Dates:** July 15–August 10, 2022

**Website:** [https://forms.gle/ZWnL9sz9rEqBVEhy8](https://forms.gle/ZWnL9sz9rEqBVEhy8)

INTRODUCTORY PHYSICS COURSES

**PHYS 111 - Introduction to Physics I**
Semester Offered: Fall
An introduction to the basic concepts of physics with emphasis on mechanics. Not calculus-based. Recommended for Pre-Health students, life science majors, and first-year students who have not previously taken calculus. The Department. Two 75-minute periods and one 3-hour laboratory.

**PHYS 112 - Introduction to Physics II/Lab**
Semester Offered: Spring
Fundamentals of electricity, magnetism, and optics. Not calculus-based. Recommended for Pre-Health students, life science majors, and first-year students who have not previously taken calculus. The Department. 
Prerequisite(s): PHYS 111 or PHYS 113 or AP credit.
Two 75-minute periods and one 3-hour laboratory.

**PHYS 113 - Fundamentals of Physics I/Lab**
Semester Offered: Fall
An introduction to the basic concepts of physics with emphasis on mechanics. Calculus-based. Recommended for potential majors in physics and other physical sciences. 
The Department. Two 75-minute periods and one 3-hour laboratory.

**PHYS 114 - Fundamentals of Physics II/Lab**
Semester Offered: Spring (and 1 section in the fall for advanced first-years)
Fundamentals of electricity, magnetism, and optics. Calculus-based. Recommended for potential majors in physics and other physical sciences. 
The Department.
Prerequisite(s): PHYS 111 or PHYS 113 or AP Credit; or equivalent.
Two 75-minute periods and one 3-hour laboratory.

**Introductory Physics Course Sequence**
Offered for 2022-2023

**PHYS 111/112** are **non-calculus**-based introductions to physics that will be ideal for students on Vassar’s pre-health track and first-year students who have not previously taken calculus. It will cover more topics than **PHYS 113/114**, including fluids and thermodynamics, but will not spend as much time on mathematics.