

Admission to a Physics Major in 2017-18

Be sure to read page 1 and page 2 of this document.

Students who were not admitted to UC San Diego in a Physics major have the opportunity to apply to a major in Physics after beginning their undergraduate education at UC San Diego. All eligible and complete applications will be considered; admittance will be limited based on the number of available seats in our program at the conclusion of the application cycle. GPA will be used as a metric for admission (if there are more eligible applicants than available seats, a lottery may be used).

In advance of applying, the student must:

- satisfy the requirements **and** screening courses for their application type
- take each major-related course for a letter-grade, earning a grade of C- or higher
- have minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all screening courses

Application Types, Timelines, and Screening Courses

“Freshman” Students Admitted in Fall 2017

These students can apply to a major in Physics at the conclusion of spring 2018, provided they have completed the required screening courses with qualifying grades. The screening courses are:

- Two UC San Diego *lecture* courses from Physics 2A-B-C-D or 4A-B-C-D-E
- Three UC San Diego courses from Math 18-20A-20B-20C-20D-20E

Please Note: These students can also apply in fall 2018 **or** at the conclusion of spring 2019. For 2018-19 we will screen these students using the “All Students Admitted in Fall 2016” criteria and information, below; precise application dates will be announced before the 2018-19 academic year begins.

“Transfer” Students Admitted in Fall 2017

These students can apply to a major in Physics during fall 2017, provided they have completed the required [Transfer Major Preparation](#) prior to matriculating to UC San Diego **and** will have Math 20E complete by the end of fall 2017.

All Students Admitted in Fall 2016

These students can apply to a major in Physics during fall 2017 **or** at the conclusion of spring 2018, provided they have completed **all** lower division requirements with qualifying grades.* The screening courses are:

- Physics 2A-B-C-D or 4A-B-C-D-E
- Physics 2CL and 2DL
- Math 18-20A-20B-20C-20D-20E

We will pull GPA from all of the screening courses (at least 4 must have been taken here at UC San Diego).

*Some majors in Physics require lower division chemistry, biology, and/or programming courses. Though we will not screen for GPA in these courses, we do expect students to complete these courses with qualifying grades in advance of applying.

All Students Admitted prior to Fall 2016

We are open to accepting stellar students who are beyond their second year at UC San Diego if we have room available after fall 2016 and 2017 admits have been considered. These students can apply in fall 2017 or at the conclusion of spring 2018; we will screen these students using the “All Students Admitted in Fall 2016” criteria and information, above.

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The Physics Capped Major Application

Fall Applicants: [Click here](#) to access the FA17 Physics capped major application; applications will be accepted from September 28 – October 27, 2017. Applications will be reviewed after the application period has closed. Incomplete/Ineligible applications will not be considered. Applicants will be contacted via the VAC by Friday, November 3, 2017 with the decision on their application.

Spring Applicants: The Physics capped major application will be available on our department website starting on June 15, 2018; applications will be accepted from June 15 – June 29, 2018. Applications will be reviewed after the application period has closed. Applicants will be contacted via the VAC by Friday, July 6, 2018 with the decision on their application.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will submitting a major change request through the Major/Minor Tool on Tritonlink be sufficient to apply to a Physics major?

A: No. You must complete the application requirements **and** apply via our capped major application during the application period.

Q: Should I submit a major change request through the Major/Minor Tool on Tritonlink in advance of submitting my capped major application?

A: This is not necessary but is helpful so we are aware of your interest in our program.

Q: How many times can I apply to the Physics capped major?

A: Incoming FA17 freshman can apply twice (once in 2017-18 and once in 2018-19); all others can apply only once.

Q: What courses should I register for if I am applying to a major in Physics?

A: Since admission into a Physics major is not guaranteed you are strongly encouraged to enroll in courses for your current major in addition to completing the application requirements. If you are currently undeclared, please consult with your college for course recommendations.

Q: Which specialization am I most likely to be admitted to?

A: Applications are considered for entrance into the Physics program as a whole; we do not have separate applications for each individual major within Physics. The Physics capped major application will ask you to rank the majors within Physics from most-to-least preferred so we know which major/specialization you would like to be admitted into. We will do our best to accommodate admitted students in their most preferred major/specialization within Physics.

Q: How many students will you be accepting into the program?

A: This number is largely dependent upon the number of Physics majors that leave the major by the end of an application period, and where they were in our program.

Q: What is the typical GPA of students accepted into the program?

A: We became capped in 2016-17 and had only one application cycle, so we do not yet have enough data to meaningfully address this.

Have more questions? Please contact the [Physics Undergraduate Advisor](#).

Last Update: 9/28/17