

“Credit Away” for Physics and Astronomy Courses

“Credit away” is awarded for courses that you take at another College or University while you are enrolled as a student at Penn. The most common example is a course taken during a semester abroad or during the summer. “Credit Away” is not awarded until **after** the course has been completed because it is impossible for the Physics Department to evaluate the coverage and difficulty of a course without seeing course materials that were used. However, you may want to consult with the Physics Undergraduate Chair to discuss important issues such as which course at Penn is the equivalent of the course you propose to take as Credit Away.

To receive course credit for Physics 101, 102, 140/150 or 141/151, you **MUST** pass the Physics “Credit Away Exam”, which also serves as the Make-up Final Exam, for the appropriate course in our curriculum. “Pass” means an exam performance given a letter grade of A, B, or C. You have 2 chances to pass the Credit Away Exam if necessary. These Exams are offered at the beginning of each term, in January and September. You should visit the registrar office’s web site or PHYS/ASTR web site for the date and time. Since the material covered may change term to term, you should look for the most recent syllabus and a formula sheet on the PHYS/ASTR website. Please bring your Penn ID to the exam because all students will be asked to sign in.

We also require a set of course materials in order to evaluate whether the course is of comparable difficulty and coverage compared to the equivalent course at Penn. This evaluation is done separately for the in-class and lab portions of the course if applicable. You may receive credit at Penn for the in-class portion, the lab portion or both.

Materials requested for course evaluation are:

- Name of the university where you took the course. Two-year colleges and community colleges are NOT eligible for credit away.
- Number of the equivalent course at Penn. (See our Course Catalog or consult with the Undergraduate Chair for further information)
- A copy of the course syllabus from the term that you were enrolled.
- Your Final and Midterm Exams for the course.
- If you wish to receive credit for the lab portion of the course, we need to review **ALL** your lab reports from the course. If you cannot provide all the lab reports from your course, please provide as many as possible, along with a list of all the labs that were performed.

These materials are submitted for evaluation using the online system XCAT (preferred). If necessary, materials may also be submitted to the Physics Undergraduate Office, DRL room 2E1. If you use this option, you should consider making copies of these documents if you want to be sure to have them for the future.