

# Student Guide to Physics 2020 Laboratory/Recitation

## Lab/Recitation Goals:

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The goals of the 2020 labs/recitations are to develop your skills in laboratory measurement, estimation, argument, justification and reasoning, to support the concepts developed in the lectures and homework, to explore your own ideas and fundamental principles in physics, and of course to have fun!

## Format and Expectations:

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- Each week there will be a combined lab and recitation. Depending on the week, the emphasis may tend towards experiments and measurements using equipment, thought experiments, or group discussion.
- Before each lab, you should download and print a copy of that week's writeup and complete the pre-lab assignment (turn it in at the beginning of lab). The prelab should be completed online and then you should print out a copy of what was submitted on line and turn this in to the TA. The downloadable writeup is to be filled in during the lab period and turned in to your TA. A separate lab notebook is not required.
- You must show up on time (20 minutes late is considered a missed lab).
- Work collaboratively in groups of 2-5, defined by the instructor.
- Finish the lab writeup during the 2 hours allotted. **Everyone is to turn in a separate, independently-written lab write-up.**

## Free Exam Questions:

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At the end of each lab writeup, there will be a couple of "potential exam questions". You do *not* have to submit answers to these questions. However, they will all go into a pool of questions from which we will select one or two to include on each exam (with minor edits).

## Grading:

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**You must complete a minimum of 8 out of the 10 labs to pass Physics 2020.**

For each of the 10 labs your score will be determined as follows:

Satisfactory completion of the pre-lab assignment earns up to 3 points

Satisfactory completion of the lab assignment earns 5 points

Lab writeups judged as "excellent" can earn up to an additional 2 points

A total of 8 points is an indication of good, solid work that meets our expectations. Most students will earn this grade. Only a few "extra credit" points will be awarded each week.

## Makeup Labs:

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If you miss a section (or if you know that you will miss a section), you can arrange to visit another section the same week. You must inform both your original TA and your substitute TA that you have switched that week. You may do this ONCE in the semester.

In addition, there will be an opportunity to make up ONE lab during the final week of the course, during your regular lab time. There are no other opportunities to makeup a lab.