

Credit by Exam - Physics

In order to help students transition to their studies at UMD, the Physics Department offers credit-by-exams for PHYS161, PHYS171, PHYS260, PHYS272, and PHYS265. **Credit-by-exams are offered only to degree-seeking students at UMD. Only one CBE may be taken at a time.**

Upcoming Exam Date

Generally, exams will be given on the Thursday prior to the start of classes. Under special circumstances, exams may also be given during Uniform Finals, if requested. The next exam will be held on the following day:

- Aug 28, 2025

We do not have the resources to offer credit-by-exams on demand. Please make sure that you will be available on the date above before applying.

Application and Posting of Grade (Updated June 2024)

You should complete the application at least one week before its scheduled date, to allow for the preparation of the exam (exception: if your orientation is within one week of the CBE, you may apply for the CBE after your orientation). ABSOLUTELY NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY OF THE EXAM.

1. You will need to complete the Credit-by-Exam application form here: [CBE Form](#). You must choose regular grading (not P/F) if you want the grade to be applied to your major or minor or general education.
2. Email the completed application form to ugrad@physics.umd.edu and cc Dr. Hailu Gebremariam (hailu@umd.edu). On the subject heading of the email, please put: **PHYS[course number] CBE - Your Name**. In your message, explain how you achieved mastery of the course material for which you are seeking credit by exam. Include textbook titles and authors, and identify other resources you used. If your application is approved, it will be returned to you so that you may take it to the Bursar's Office in the Lee Building to make the payment (currently \$30). You will be given a receipt by the Bursar's Office. **You will need to bring a print out of the approved application and the receipt to us on the day of the exam.**
3. On the day of the exam, report to 1309 John S. Toll Physics Building 30 minutes prior to the exam time with your payment receipt, your approved CBE application, and your student ID (or driver's license). Additional documents may be required, and if so, they will be listed in the email.

4. After you have taken the exam, you have the option to not turn it in for grading. If you don't turn in your exam for grading, nothing at all will appear on your official transcript. If you think you have performed poorly, then you probably don't want to turn the exam in for grading; if you turn it in for grading, you will get a grade.
5. After the exam has been graded, you must come to the Undergraduate Math Office and sign a form saying that you either accept or reject the grade. A grade of "C-" or better must be obtained to establish credit-by-exam. If you reject the grade, a "W" will be recorded on your transcript. No course may be attempted more than once using credit-by-exam.
6. **If you do not hear back from us one week after you have taken the CBE, please contact ugrad@physics.umd.edu.**
7. If you register to take a CBE and later need to cancel the registration, please kindly provide notice one business day in advance. There will be no refunds for cancellations or missed exams.