

Department: Physics and Astronomy

Course Information: PHYS 2015 General Physics II

Instructor: Professor Stevens

Below is information about the sections of the course, the number of LAs we expect to hire per section, and the meeting times that you will be expected to attend for each section.

Before you apply, ensure that these times fit into your schedule.

Section #	Expected Number of LAs for this section	LAs need to attend course functions at the following times:
1	1	M 12-1:50pm lecture W 12-1:50pm lecture

In addition to being available for the times listed above, working as an LA also requires the following:

1. All LAs must meet weekly with their faculty member to prepare for the following week's events at a time mutually acceptable to the faculty and LA
2. **All new LAs** must be available to attend a training from 4:30pm – 8pm on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026 (if you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from attending this training, please contact Carrie Misuraco at cmisurac@d.umn.edu)
3. **All new LAs** must be available to complete training on one of the following weekly times:
 Wednesdays 3-3:50pm
 Wednesdays 4-4:50pm
 Thursdays 2-2:50pm

What will an LA do in this course?

The role of the LA varies slightly in each course. Read below for more information from Professor Stevens on the LA's role in this course.

What is the role of the LA in this course?

LAs in this course will help their peers solve physics problems in small groups, both by answering students' questions and by asking students questions to check their peers' understanding. LAs can leverage their own prior experiences in learning physics to help others identify places where their physical understanding is inconsistent with electricity & magnetism and to offer insight on what helped the LA make sense of the material when they encountered it. Each week, the LAs will meet with the instructor to discuss the course material,

practice identifying where students are confused on the material, and discuss methods for addressing those points. LAs will also provide valuable feedback about common student concerns, how students have been solving problems, and offer suggestions based on their observations.

How could being an LA for this course benefit you?

By teaching physics material to their peers, the LAs will deepen their own understanding of course material and hone their critical thinking skills, thereby providing a solid foundation for the LAs' success in future courses and beyond. Whether or not an LA pursues a career in academic, it is very likely that they will still need to communicate difficult concepts to an audience who lacks deep expertise on the topic, so the experience gained here will be broadly applicable in the future.

The LAs will also gain valuable teaching experience earlier than one usually does in an academic career, which may help to inform their career plans: academic jobs often include regular teaching duties, yet applicants often do not have many opportunities to gain teaching experience before then. LAs who decide to pursue careers with teaching components can build upon and tout their experiences with the evidence-based pedagogical methods used in this course.

Additional Questions:

Has the applicant taken either PHYS 2015 or 2018 (or an equivalent course elsewhere)? What is the applicant's comfort level with 2015 material?

