Welcome

On behalf of the faculty and staff, congratulations on your acceptance to the physics department of The College of New Jersey!

We believe that the programs in the School of Science offer an excellent combination of academic strength, flexibility, and practical experience. We are looking forward to meeting you and to your becoming a part of our TCNJ community as you help make your future goals a reality. As a TCNJ student you will be working with an award-winning faculty ready to both inspire you and challenge you to do your very best work.

It will be an exciting summer at TCNJ, especially in our own department, where several faculty members will be supervising student research, and I look forward to meeting you when you arrive on campus in the summer for orientation.

Advising Information

You will be assigned an advisor – a faculty member from our department – who will meet with you regularly throughout your time at TCNJ. You will have opportunities to discuss your course work, independent studies that you might want to pursue, or other academic questions that arise prior to, during, or subsequent to registration each semester. It is important to meet with your faculty advisor each semester to assure that you are on the right track and completing all necessary courses for graduation. If you have an interest in our specializations in astrophysics, biomedical physics, computational physics, condensed matter physics or geophysics, please let us know so that we may assign you a specific advisor.

Until your advisor is assigned, please feel free to contact me or Ms. Carole Calu, the department office manager, should you have any questions at all. You can reach me at wiitap@tcnj.edu or 609-771-2846 or Ms. Calu at physics@tcnj.edu or 609-771-2569.

Your First Semester

On the back of this letter we have compiled an “Understanding Your First Semester Sequence” document that provides a clear and ordered description of the recommended courses for your first semester and detailed information regarding the liberal learning program, including instructions for selecting your First Seminar class (FSP).

As department chair, I’m excited to have you join our community. We look forward to you joining us for a wonderful year!

Paul J. Wiita  
Professor and Chair  
P) 609-771-2846  
E) wiitap@tcnj.edu  
http://physics.pages.tcnj.edu/
UNDERSTANDING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER SEQUENCE

Every major has a guideline for its first semester students: the First Semester Sequence. Within this sequence of courses, you will see Major Requirements (for which you will be pre-registered), First Seminar Program (FSP), Liberal Learning courses, and Interdisciplinary Studies requirements. Please reference this First Semester Sequence while completing your online First Semester Worksheet.

Physics Secondary Education

**Major Requirements**
All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for Major Requirement courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHY 99</td>
<td>Physics Seminar</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY 201</td>
<td>General Physics I*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 127</td>
<td>Calculus A*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*PHY 201 and MAT 127 all require a math SAT score of 650 or higher; otherwise you must take MAT 96 – Precalculus (0 unit) or demonstrate proficiency through a standardized examination. See the Math/Stat Dept. web page for details.

**First Seminar Program (FSP)**
Select six from the following recommended FSPs (1 unit):

- FSP 161 (Any Section)
- FSP 162 (Any Section)
- FSP 163 (Any Section)
- FSP 164 (Any Section)

**Second Language**
All Physics Majors require 2nd language proficiency at the 102 level.

Information about language placement criteria is available at http://wlc.pages.tcnj.edu/. No placement exam is needed to take a 101 or 151 level course in a language not previously studied. Students who place out of a second language should take a liberal learning course from any category except Quantitative Reasoning and Natural Science.

**Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) Requirement**
All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDS 102</td>
<td>Information Literacy Proficiency</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDS 103</td>
<td>Community Engaged Learning</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRP 99</td>
<td>Summer Reading Program</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A “full” load is four course units.

**Major Requirements**: The Major Requirements section provides a list of the specific courses you are required to take during your first semester. You will be preregistered for them. To take PHY 201 and MAT 127 you must be calculus ready (SAT score > 650) or otherwise take MAT 096, Precalculus (0 unit). Be sure to advise the department of any related AP course credit.

**First Seminar Program (FSP)**: The FSP is the cornerstone of the Liberal Learning Program. Please select six FSP courses from the categories on the left, and indicate them on your online First Semester Worksheet. View all sections on the First Seminar website: http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu. Please bear in mind that we will only see them in alphabetical order, not your order of preference, and that we will make every effort to enroll you in one of the six.

**Second Language**: You should take one language course. If you place out of a language altogether, then you should take a liberal learning course (see below).

**Interdisciplinary Studies**: IDS 102 is a required, online, non-credit course administered by the library staff satisfying the information literacy component of the Liberal Learning Program. You should meet this proficiency during your first semester. IDS 103 is our way of keeping track of your community engaged learning requirement. As above, you receive no specific academic credit for it, but you should complete it by the end of your first year.

**Liberal Learning**: Unless you earn credit from AP scores in one of the required courses in your First Semester Sequence, or are exempt from the Second Language Proficiency requirement, you will not be taking additional liberal learning courses during your first semester. However, you will eventually need to complete the liberal learning program as part of your graduation requirements. Please visit http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu and http://firstreg.pages.tcnj.edu/liberal-learning to learn more about the different Liberal Learning Program paths.

**Summer Reading Program (SRP 99)**: This required, non-credited program welcomes you to TCNJ’s intellectual community by asking you to critically read a thought-provoking book and share your insights about the book in small group discussions with your peers led by a facilitator during Welcome Week.