



## Welcome to Virginia Tech Physics!

We are excited to partner with you during your journey through Physics! We are Chris Savage and Melanie Sontheimer, and we will be your Academic Advisors throughout your Virtual Advising And Course Request (VAACR) program this summer, as well as throughout your undergraduate career. We look forward to meeting with each of you and ensuring that your transition to college life is as seamless as possible!

As part of your orientation, we have two virtual advising appointments as well as several other steps you must complete before the Fall semester begins.

Please read this welcome message carefully and completely

## College of Science Tasks and Completion Dates:

### Independent Work:

**Dates:** June 10<sup>th</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>

These are the tasks you will need to complete to prepare you for the Fall semester. VAACR Step 1 MUST be complete prior to your Summer Advising Session 1 (see below). We highly recommend you get Step 1 finished today! Details for each of these steps can be found on the [VAACR website](#).

- **VAACR Step 1:** [Set up Technology](#)
  - **Recommended Completion Date:** May 20<sup>th</sup>
- **VAACR Step 2:** [ALEKS Placement Assessment](#)
  - **Recommended Completion Date:** June 4<sup>th</sup>
  - **Note:** The VT ALEKS placement assessment is used to determine eligibility to enroll in MATH 1225 (Calculus of a Single Variable) and CHEM 1035/1045 (General Chemistry) both of which are required for Physics Majors. You will still need to take the assessment regardless of anticipated AP, IB, CLEP, Cambridge, or other transfer credits.
- **VAACR Step 3:** [Transcript & Expected Credits](#)
  - **Recommended Completion Date:** June 17<sup>th</sup>
- **VAACR Step 4:** [Register for Fall courses](#)
  - **Recommended Completion Date:** Opens June 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Be sure to complete at least 2 business days prior to your Summer Advising Session 2 appointment.
  - Don't worry if you can't sign up for all your courses right now, that's okay! Transcripts may not have been processed, AP scores may not have been reported, etc. We will go over your individual circumstances in your Summer Advising Session 2 appointment.

### Summer Advising Session 1:

**Dates:** June 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>

**Registration Deadline:** June 1<sup>st</sup>

This **required** virtual Zoom session will provide an overview of summer orientation activities, important Physics Department information, and next steps before your individual Summer Advising Session 2. You'll also be able to ask general questions about the Physics Department, College of Science, and University. Please note that any individual questions may be deferred to your second, individual, session.

- **IMPORTANT:** You will need to [set up your technology](#) prior to this Zoom meeting. We recommend doing this today!
- Sign up for one of the following sessions:
  - June 10<sup>th</sup> 10-11am EDT ([Registration link](#))
  - June 11<sup>th</sup> 10-11am EDT ([Registration link](#))
  - June 15<sup>th</sup> 1-2pm EDT ([Registration link](#))
  - June 16<sup>th</sup> 3-4pm EDT ([Registration link](#))
- Any students who have not registered by June 1<sup>st</sup> will be assigned a session to attend.

### FERPA Self-Passcode

**Recommended Completion Date:** June 16<sup>th</sup>

You will need to set up a FERPA Self-Passcode prior to your individual advising session. This will provide additional verification during our individual meetings. Instructions can be found here: [FERPA Passcode](#)

This **MUST** be completed prior to your individual meeting (see below). If this is not complete, we will need to cancel your appointment, and you will be required to reschedule.

### Summer Advising Session 2:

**Dates:** June 17<sup>th</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>

This **required** virtual Zoom session will allow individual advising and course registration appointments with either Chris or Melanie. These individual appointments will allow us to address any lingering questions and course registration issues. This appointment will also allow us to get to know you a little better!

- You will receive an email on or around June 10<sup>th</sup> to book this appointment via Navigate. Navigate is a platform we use to advise our students.
- We also ask that you attend this session individually without others or members of your family / support team so we can connect with each other. You will be able to consult with your family / support team after your advising session and will still have the option to make any adjustments to your schedule at that time.
- In preparation for your academic advising appointment, please complete VAACR Steps 1-4 above at least 2 business days before your scheduled advising appointment. Your advising appointment **MAY** be cancelled if it is not completed prior to the appointment and you will be required to reschedule.

While everyone's journey will be different, a typical 1<sup>st</sup> year for physics students looks like:

Year 1 Fall	Credits	Year 1 Spring	Credits
PHYS 2305: Foundations of Physics	4	PHYS 2306: Foundations of Physics	4
PHYS 2325: Seminar for Physics Majors	1	PHYS 2326: Seminar for Physics Majors	1

<b>PHYS 2074:</b> Contemporary Physics	3
<b>MATH 1225:</b> Calculus of a Single Variable	4
<b>ENGL 1105:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Writing (P1f)	3
	<b>15</b>

<b>MATH 1225:</b> Calculus of a Single Variable	4
<b>MATH 2114:</b> Intro to Linear Algebra	4
<b>ENGL 1106:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Writing (P1f)	3
	<b>15</b>

In the meantime, we are working hard to ensure that your transition to college life is a seamless and successful one! If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to reach out to: [ugphysadvising-g@vt.edu](mailto:ugphysadvising-g@vt.edu)

Best wishes and we look forward to speaking with you soon!

Chris Savage & Melanie Sontheimer