Credit by Exam
Department of Physics

The rules governing obtaining credit by exam for Virginia Tech are shown on the Registrar's website: At the forms page (https://www.registrar.vt.edu/forms-multi-brief.html) click on the link for "Credit by Exam." The link takes you to the form that must be filled out and brought to the Chair of the Physics Department for their approval and signature.

Note the explanation of the credit-by-exam policy for Virginia Tech, shown on the form:

Credit may be allowed by special examination where command of a subject can be demonstrated in place of formal coursework. Credit by Exam is not available to a student who has previously audited or enrolled in the course or has previously attempted credit by examination for the course. Only currently enrolled undergraduate students are eligible for special examinations. If credit by examination is approved by the offering department, the offering department shall have full responsibility for determining the type of examination to be given and what constitutes a passing grade. A maximum of 12 hours may be awarded. Approval must be obtained from the head of the department offering the course.

Credit established by examination may not be used to satisfy the in-residence requirements for graduation. No grades or quality credits will be assigned. Credit by exam is graded on a Pass/Fail basis only.

There is a $10.00 per credit hour fee for the examination. Fees are subject to change at the beginning of an academic year.

In particular, please note that no more than 12 credits can be obtained at Virginia Tech by Credit by Exam.

Credit by Exam for Introductory Physics courses

Credit by Exam for PHYS 2205, 2206, 2305, or 2306 can be attempted at any time. The passing score, as determined by the Department of Physics, is 70%. Note that you won't be approved by the Department Head to take the exam if you previously took an AP course and did not score sufficiently well to get AP credit at Virginia Tech.

Credit by Exam for Courses Beyond the Introductory Level

Credit by Exam for undergraduate courses beyond the introductory level must be attempted by taking the final exam in the course in the semester in which the student is requesting credit. The examinee's exam will be graded along with the exams of the other students in the course. Passing will be determined by the instructor, taking into account the examinee's score relative to the class.