

Big Changes on the Way for AP Physics

As part of the [Advanced Placement course and exam redesign](#), AP will offer two new physics courses beginning in fall 2014. These courses, [AP Physics 1 and Physics 2](#), will **replace** the current AP Physics B course; as a result, AP Physics B will retire in fall 2014. This two-course physics model better reflects the introductory algebra-based college course sequence at most colleges.

The new AP Physics 1 and Physics 2 courses and exams:

- Enable students to delve deeper into key physics concepts
- Focus on emerging areas of research
- Reflect the structure and content of introductory college courses
- Foreground critical inquiry and reasoning
- Emphasize inquiry-based labs, aligned with the recommendations in America's Lab Report, also issued by the National Research Council.

As with all AP courses, the AP Physics 1 and 2 curriculum and exam development was overseen by a committee comprised of college faculty members and AP teachers from across the country. The committee reviewed introductory-level Physics syllabi from colleges and universities across the country. This curriculum review helped the committee define which elements of introductory algebra-physics Physics were elemental and important to keep in the design of the revised curriculum. The final curriculum was also reviewed and validated by a separate panel of more than 50 physics faculty from a variety of institutions.

What do the redesigned courses and exams mean for colleges?

The first score reports for Physics 1 and 2 will be available in July 2015.

Colleges can prepare for these changes in three ways:

1. **Review the [Physics 1 and 2 Curriculum Framework](#)** and determine alignment with your corresponding introductory college course(s).
2. **Create new [credit and placement policies](#)** that reflect the courses' alignment with your department's courses. The College Board recommends that colleges grant one semester of credit for a score of 3 or higher on Physics 1 and one

semester of credit for a score of 3 or higher on Physics 2. Students need not take both exams in order to earn credit.

3. **Advise the College Board** about your new Physics policy through an [online form](#) and **publicize the policies** on your website to inform prospective and admitted students.