Physics 201 & WebCT

Instructions for taking Math Quizzes

Physics 201 uses the WebCT system to both administer taking Math Quizzes and posting your grades. On WebCT you will take a Warm-up for submitting course material, a Preliminary Physics Background Evaluation (FCI) and Math Quizzes. We begin with a description of each. Instructions on how to use WebCT are at the end.

Preliminary Physics Background Evaluation: The Force Concept Inventory (FCI) is a pre-class evaluation which is designed to help us gauge your physics background preparation for the class. This does not count as part of your grade, but you must complete it before you can access the Math Quizzes. Note that you only get one attempt at taking the Force Concept Inventory but you may take as long as you like to complete it.

Math Quizzes: Experience has shown that students with insufficient mathematical background do very poorly in Physics 201. For this reason there are a set of Math Quizzes which are designed to help you overcome any potential weaknesses in the areas of mathematics which might impede your doing well in the course. The questions in the quizzes are meant to *remind* you of mathematical concepts that should be familiar to you and which are going to be used repeatedly throughout the semester. Your professor and TA will assume that you are proficient with these types of problems by the end of the first few weeks of class.

There are ten separate quizzes which cover the mathematical skills that are necessary to successfully complete the course. Each quiz consists of ten short math questions (you are allowed 10 minutes to take each) and is graded on a pass/fail basis with a 10/10 being the only passing grade. You are provided with immediate feedback after you hit the submit button for each quiz. If you are well prepared mathematically for this course they should be quick and easy. If not, you are allowed an unlimited number of attempts so that by the time you have received ten perfect scores you have the necessary skills to complete the course. Successfully completing all ten Math Quizzes is necessary to pass the Physics 201 course.

Getting started with WebCT

To use WebCT you will need a NEO account. Instructions for activating your NEO account can be found by going to the URL https://webct.tamu.edu/logininstructions.html .These instructions are available both as a webpage and as a PDF for download. They also may be found on https://webct.tamu.edu .

Once you are registered with WebCT, you can begin submitting homework from any campus computer with Internet access. For off-campus computers you must either have a TAMUnet modem connection or have a VPN (Virtual Private Network) client running (e.g. if you have a cable modem or DSL connection). For more information about VPN and TAMUnet, please refer to the CIS support staff: (979) 845-8300

To take the FCI, Math Quizzes, etc., you need to logon to WebCT by going to the URL https://webct.tamu.edu and clicking on the link myWebCT logon. You will be prompted for your NEO *username* and *password*. Once you have successfully entered your both and entered WebCT, you will be taken to a "Courses" page. Click on the link Physics 201 to access your Math Quizzes, etc.

Checking your grades with WebCT: You can check your quiz scores, recitation, lab and exam grades by choosing the "View scores for quizzes" option on the WebCT Physics 201 course page.

Contact Information:

If you are having trouble getting into WebCT, need technical assistance (registration/lost passwords etc.), or believe there is a WebCT problem please contact WebCT directly by filling the request assistance form at https://webct.tamu.edu/requestassistance.html. Their helpdesk will respond within 1 hour any time of the day. If you have any questions regarding the physics or math content, or don't understand the homework grading system, you can email Prof. David Toback (toback@physics.tamu.edu). There is extra credit for students who find bugs in the system.

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