Follow the flowchart to decide on what your first intro physics class should be
Remember that Physics 141, 142, 241 require either Math 125 or 126
Physics 242 also requires Math 129

Do you intend to major in physics?

no

Does your major require 241?

no

Did you take AP or IB Physics in high school or do you have other significant physics experience?

no

AP

IB

241

If you got a 7 in HL Physics then you may (but aren't required to) take the intro physics placement test.
Otherwise take 241.

241

If you got a 5 in C Mechanics take 242.
If you got a 4 in C Mechanics, you may (but aren't required to) take the intro physics placement test.
Otherwise take 241.

141

If you got a 7 in HL Physics then you may (but aren't required to) take the intro physics placement test.
Otherwise take 141.

If you got a 4 or 5 in Physics 1 -> 142
If you got a 4 or 5 in Physics B -> 142
If you got a 4 or 5 in C Mechanics -> 142
All else -> 141

Take the intro physics placement test for potential placement into 142 or 242. After completing the test, if you want placement in PC 142 or PC 242, bring the completed test to the physics department chair for placement approval. If you do not get approval, take PC 141 or PC 241 as appropriate.

But I got credit for high school physics classes. Does that not matter?
Credit means something for your standing with the registrar, but it has nothing to do with placement in physics classes. Talk to the registrar’s office about credits from high school/previous institution, but follow the flow chart for choosing classes.

I’m a transfer/international student who took physics in another college using a college level textbook written in English.
Provide a physics professor with a copy of your college syllabus, the textbook table of contents, a list of covered chapters, and your course grade or alternatively, take the intro physics placement exam.

Can I place out of PC 242?
Contact a physics professor to discuss this. Note that even students who got a 5 on AP C Electricity and Magnetism are usually not prepared to do this. AP C E&M doesn't cover many important topics and lack important labs, hence going into Modern Physics PC251 would be very difficult.

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