

Getting a Good Lab Grade

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Office Hours: Th 10am-12pm or by appointment, Help Study Room

Following a few key instructions will help you maximize your learning and your grade in the PHY 252 lab.

1. Get your physics right.

An incorrect or lack of understanding of the underlying physics of each lab will hurt your grade more than anything else (other than just not doing the work). Don't gloss over concepts or equations you don't know, thinking I won't notice; just learn it! I'm here to help you with that – come to my office hours or email me with any questions.

2. Attend every laboratory.

If you have a legitimate excuse (sickness, birth of your child, unexpected mission with Jack Bauer, etc), you must let me know **ahead of time**. If you get food poisoning on your way to lab, send a text message to my email address. If you're hit by a bus and are incapacitated on the way to lab, I will accept notification when you regain consciousness. Otherwise, you will earn a zero for that lab, even if you contribute to the report.

3. Write the lab reports yourselves. If you use someone else's work, cite it.

Copying phrases from the textbook or lab guide – even in your procedure section – without proper citation is plagiarism and will be treated as such.

4. Follow instructions.

When I grade the reports, I have in front of me the “Writing the Lab Report” document as well as notes I write on the board during class.

5. Include and discuss all data.

You can, and should, put more emphasis on the results you think are important, but make sure to address everything at least in passing.

6. Incorporate my comments on your lab report into your next report.

If, for example, I keep having to write “Include next steps in your conclusion,” then you will lose those points each time. Instead, correct the mistake the first time I point it out.

7. If you have any questions or uncertainties, ask me.

Even if it's an hour before the report is due and you think it's too late, send me an email. If I'm on the computer, I'll respond. Do note, however, that my office hours are the day before the reports are generally due, so try to finish enough of the report by then to know if you have any questions.