

# Ph201L—College Physics I Lab

2025–2026–Fall

**Description:** Supplements the Ph201 lecture class by providing hands-on experience with some of the topics covered in the lecture. Also provides experience with making accurate experimental measurements, and with data analysis. The course, lecture plus lab, satisfies the university laboratory science requirement.

**Instructor:** The instructor for this course is me, Dr. Mark Jacobs, of the physics department. My office is in room 2509 of the science building. You can see me there during office hours (in person or by Zoom; times TBA). You can also reach me by phone (906-227-2557) or email (mjacobs@nmu.edu).

**Course material:** There is no separate textbook for the lab. Printed handouts will be provided. Some exercises use data-capture and analysis software that you will need to install on your computer; we will handle that in one of the early lab sessions. When we do those exercises there will be a setup file for the software that you can download from <https://physics.nmu.edu/~mjacobs/Ph201L/>. Additional material may also be made available there. You can also check your lecture instructor's EduCat page for lab material. There is no separate EduCat page for this lab session.

**Lab sessions:** Due to the nature of laboratory work, attendance at your assigned session is required. If you are ill, or must be absent because of an official NMU function, try to attend another lab section—email both your regular instructor and that of the session you wish to attend.

You should bring both your laptop computer and a scientific calculator to each lab. (A cellphone calculator is not permitted on quizzes.) A typical lab session goes like this:

1. Hand in lab from previous week; take quiz on same.
2. Return and discuss graded papers.
3. Discuss and demonstrate current lab exercise.
4. Work time, music . . .
5. Check out with instructor: lab results, station clean-up.

**Grade breakdown:** Scores will be based on the exercises you turn in (60%) and quizzes (40%). There is no separate letter grade for the lab; the overall lab score counts as 20% of the course grade. You must get a passing grade in lab in order to pass the course; otherwise the lab-science requirement would not be satisfied. I will show you how to keep track of your overall lab score using the papers you get back (since there is no EduCat page).

**Special note:** You're encouraged to work with and talk to other people in lab, but the written work you turn in has to be your own. You may take data cooperatively, but you must enter and analyze it yourself—no sharing of data files, etc. Also note that the use of artificial-intelligence tools to generate calculations or written work is prohibited.

**Students with disabilities:** If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Dean of Students Office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock Building (906-227-1737 or [disability@nmu.edu](mailto:disability@nmu.edu)). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and university guidelines.