

**From:** [Steele, Rachel](#)  
**To:** [Thaler, Lindsey](#); [Humanic, Thomas](#); [Pelz, Jonathan](#)  
**Cc:** [Ottesen, Jennifer](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Cody, Emily](#); [Hilty, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** Physics 5261  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 1, 2022 9:34:40 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
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Good morning,

On Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course proposal for Physics 5261.

The Panel unanimously approved the request with four recommendations and two comments:

- a. *Recommendation:* The Panel recommends that the units amend the list of recommended texts (syllabus pg. 4). While the Panel recognizes that this list may be intended to supplement knowledge for students coming into the course from a wide variety of backgrounds, it may be difficult for students to discern which books will be most useful to them. The Panel offers a friendly suggestion to include information about which texts might be most relevant for students who do not have a background in soil science, or which text(s) may be most pertinent to different topics in the course calendar, as well as including information about where to access and/or purchase these texts.
- b. *Recommendation:* The Panel recommends that the units clarify or eliminate the “Pace of activities” section of the syllabus (pg. 3 under “How This Course Works”), as the current language is reminiscent of the college’s recommended language for asynchronous online courses and does not seem to align with the in-person format of the course.
- c. *Recommendation:* The Panel recommends that the syllabus state explicitly that there will not be a final exam in the course.
- d. *Recommendation:* The Panel recommends that the syllabus (pg. 1) identify the course number with BOTH Physics and ENR designations (i.e. “ENR/Physics 5261”) and amend the course exclusions (syllabus pg. 2 under “Course Prerequisites”) to read “ENR 5261 is not open to students with credit for Physics 5261; likewise, Physics 5261 is not open to students with credit for EBR 5261” or similar.
- e. *Comment:* The Panel observes that the lack of pre-requisites is unusual for a course at the 5000 level. While the Panel understands that pre-requisites may not be strictly necessary, if the units do expect some prior experience with science at the collegiate level, the Panel offers the friendly suggestion that the units include a statement in the syllabus which describes the skills and/or knowledge students should have prior to beginning the course.
- f. *Comment:* The Panel offers a friendly observation that the Course Description (syllabus pg. 2) begins with a sentence fragment that may be confusing for students.

Physics 5261 will continue through the approval process.

Should you have any questions about the feedback of the Panel, please feel free to contact Jennifer Ottesen (faculty Chair of the NMS Panel; cc’d on this e-mail), or me.

Best,  
Rachel



**Rachel Steele, MA**

(Pronouns: she/her/hers / Honorific: Ms.)

Program Manager, Office of Curriculum and Assessment

**College of Arts and Sciences**

306 Dulles Hall 230 Annie and John Glenn Ave. Columbus, OH 43210

(614) 688-4540

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