

<b>Fiscal Unit/Academic Org</b>	Physics - D0684
<b>Administering College/Academic Group</b>	Arts and Sciences
<b>Co-administering College/Academic Group</b>	Arts and Sciences
<b>Semester Conversion Designation</b>	New Program/Plan
<b>Proposed Program/Plan Name</b>	Computational Physics Certificate
<b>Type of Program/Plan</b>	Undergraduate certificate program
<b>Program/Plan Code Abbreviation</b>	COMPPHY
<b>Proposed Degree Title</b>	

**Credit Hour Explanation**

Program credit hour requirements		A) Number of credit hours in current program (Quarter credit hours)	B) Calculated result for 2/3rds of current (Semester credit hours)	C) Number of credit hours required for proposed program (Semester credit hours)	D) Change in credit hours
Total minimum credit hours required for completion of program				13	
Required credit hours offered by the unit	Minimum			7	
	Maximum				
Required credit hours offered outside of the unit	Minimum			6	
	Maximum				
Required prerequisite credit hours not included above	Minimum			0	
	Maximum				

**Program Learning Goals**

Note: these are required for all undergraduate degree programs and majors now, and will be required for all graduate and professional degree programs in 2012. Nonetheless, all programs are encouraged to complete these now.

**Program Learning Goals**

- Upon completion of the academic certificate in Computational Physics, students will be better prepared to  
Write correct, clear, and well-documented computer code without errors that flows logically and is appropriate for solving physics problems
- Explain which machine learning algorithm or other computational solution should be used to solve a physics problem
- Articulate verbally or in writing the importance of being able to solve physics technical computationally versus relying solely on analytical methods

**Assessment**

Assessment plan includes student learning goals, how those goals are evaluated, and how the information collected is used to improve student learning. An assessment plan is required for undergraduate majors and degrees. Graduate and professional degree programs are encouraged to complete this now, but will not be required to do so until 2012.

**Is this a degree program (undergraduate, graduate, or professional) or major proposal?** No

**Program Specializations/Sub-Plans**

If you do not specify a program specialization/sub-plan it will be assumed you are submitting this program for all program specializations/sub-plans.

**Pre-Major**

Does this Program have a Pre-Major? No

**Attachments**

- Certificate\_Proposal\_CompPhys\_final\_revised.pdf: proposal and letter  
*(Program Proposal. Owner: Thaler,Lindsey Nicole)*
- ECE\_concurrence\_email.pdf: concurrence from ECE  
*(Support/Concurrence Letters. Owner: Thaler,Lindsey Nicole)*
- Responses\_to\_ASC\_Review\_Computational\_Physics\_Proposal.pdf: response to initial feedback  
*(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Thaler,Lindsey Nicole)*

**Comments**

- Please see feedback email sent to department 2-8-2023 RLS *(by Steele,Rachel Lea on 02/08/2023 09:20 AM)*

**Workflow Information**

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Thaler,Lindsey Nicole	12/09/2022 12:44 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Humanic,Thomas John	12/09/2022 01:05 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	01/17/2023 02:54 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Steele,Rachel Lea	02/08/2023 09:20 AM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Thaler,Lindsey Nicole	07/27/2023 08:28 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Humanic,Thomas John	07/28/2023 01:17 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	08/22/2023 09:10 AM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hanlin,Deborah Kay Hilty,Michael Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Steele,Rachel Lea	08/22/2023 09:10 AM	ASCCAO Approval

July 14, 2023

Dear ASC Curriculum Review Committee:

Appended is a revised proposal by the Department of Physics for a Computational Physics Certificate, type 1b (undergraduate academic certificate, embedded).

The rationale for this certificate is that many students majoring in Physics, Engineering Physics and Astronomy arrive at Ohio State with an interest in computers and software development. Computation is an integral part of modern science and the certificate in computational physics is designed to educate students in computer simulation of physical systems. A certificate in computational physics proves to a future employer or graduate program that the student is skilled in modeling physical systems and delivering solutions through computer programming.

The proposal has already undergone a review by the ASC Curriculum Review Committee in February. The present revised proposal implements the comments from the review.

This proposal has been approved by the Physics Undergraduate Studies Committee and Physics faculty. Also, concurrence for this certificate has been obtained from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). The proposed implementation for this certificate is Autumn 2024.

Thank you for your consideration of this revised proposal.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Humanic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "T".

Thomas J. Humanic  
Professor of Physics  
Vice-Chair for Undergraduate Studies

# Proposal for an undergraduate embedded Certificate in Computational Physics

July 14, 2023

## Proposal Submission Guidelines for Establishing a New Certificate

### 1. Required Information

- Name of proposed certificate. Identify certificate type from certificate grid (e.g., Type 2, standalone post-bachelor undergraduate certificate).

*Computational Physics, type 1b (undergraduate academic certificate, embedded)*

- Indicate whether the certificate will be delivered wholly on-line, wholly in-person, a combination, or with all hybrid courses.

*In-person delivery.*

- Proposed implementation date.

*Autumn 2024*

- Academic units (e.g., department, college) responsible for administering the certificate program.

*The Department of Physics, in the College of Arts and Sciences will be responsible for administering the certificate program. The Department of Physics Vice-Chair for Undergraduate Studies and Director of Undergraduate Studies along with the Undergraduate Studies Committee is the administrative structure that will oversee the certificate program, managing assessment, changes and other administrative issues that may arise with the program.*

### 2. Rationale

- Describe the rationale/purpose of the certificate.

*Many students majoring in Physics, Engineering Physics and Astronomy arrive at Ohio State with an interest in computers and software development. Computation is an integral part of modern science and the certificate in computational physics is designed to educate students in computer simulation of physical systems. Computational physics prepares students to build computational models, design algorithms for numerical solutions, analyze the calculated data and perform computer experiments, (that are otherwise unfeasible), by using high-performance computers. A certificate in computational physics proves that students are skilled in modeling physical systems and delivering solutions through computer programming.*

*A good example of the interest of employers in computational physics is found with the Office of Science of the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE). The DOE supports over 40 percent of the basic research in physical sciences in the United States and operates 10 major laboratories, such as the Argonne National Laboratory, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, and SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. Its Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) program promotes careers in computational physics and the use of tools to analyze, model, simulate, and predict complex phenomena important to the DOE. In 2001, it began the Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing (SciDAC) program that supports many computational physics jobs. The program is focused on advancing scientific discovery using supercomputers performing trillions of calculations per second (tera-scale). SciDAC projects are aimed at "developing future energy sources, studying global climate change, accelerating research in designing new materials, improving environmental cleanup methods, and understanding physics from the tiniest particles to massive supernovae explosions." SciDAC publishes a journal and has established SciDAC Institutes at four major universities with a total of 13 universities participating in the partnership.*

*Ohio State has significant strength in computing, but no well-defined program in computational physics. This certificate will clarify to students, grad schools, and employers that the student was engaged in a coherent set of undergraduate coursework to prepare the student to pursue computational physics as a career or to use it in graduate school.*

- Identify a likely source of student demand for the proposed certificate, and provide one or two examples.

*Students majoring in these programs will be able to indicate their focus on computational physics with such a certificate with a minimum of extra courses.*

*For example, a student majoring in Physics, Engineering Physics or Astronomy will be able to complete the certificate with 2 additional courses with strategic choices within the major.*

- Provide the following statement: *Upon completion of the academic certificate in <specify title>, learners will be better prepared to. . .” <list a maximum of 3 outcomes>.*

*Upon completion of the academic certificate in Computational Physics, students will be better prepared to :*

- (1) Write correct, clear, and well-documented computer code without errors that flows logically and is appropriate for solving physics problems*
- (2) Explain which machine learning algorithm or other computational solution should be used to solve a physics problem*
- (3) Articulate verbally or in writing the importance of being able to solve physics technical computationally versus relying solely on analytical methods*

*See appendix C for assessment plan.*

### 3. Relationship to Other Programs / Benchmarking

- Identify any overlaps with other programs or departments within the university. Append letters of concurrence or objection from related units.

*The certificate overlaps with the BS in Physics and the BS in Engineering Physics, both of which are administered by the Department of Physics.*

*Concurrence for this program has been obtained from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE).*

- Indicate whether this certificate or a similar certificate was submitted for approval previously.

*This is a new proposal. No such certificate proposal has been submitted for approval previously.*

Explain at what stage and why that proposal was not approved or was withdrawn.

*N/A*

- Identify similar programs at other universities in Ohio or in the United States and their levels of success.

*There are no similar programs in Ohio.*

*There are several undergraduate certificate programs in computational science that specialize in physics, two examples being at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign offered by the College of Engineering <https://cse.illinois.edu/cse-educational-programs/undergraduate-certificate/>, and at the University of Missouri offered by the College of Arts and Science, <http://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/additionalcertificatesminors/cert-computational-physics/>. The certificate programs offered by these universities are similar in scope with the certificate program being proposed here.*

### 4. Student Enrollment

- Indicate the number of students you anticipate will choose to pursue this certificate.

*Based on a recent survey of our current majors, we anticipate initial enrollment to be modest, about 20-40. Growth will be facilitated with outreach to the relevant populations in Physics, Engineering Physics, Astronomy and ECE. The Undergraduate Studies*

*Committee in Physics will advertise the certificate during student visit days, communicate the opportunity to advisors and the career center*

5. Curricular Requirements

- Provide ASC certificate advising sheet.

*See Appendix A*

- List the courses (department, title, credit hours, description) which constitute the requirements and other components of the certificate. If any courses have prerequisites, please indicate so. Indicate which courses are currently offered and which will be new. When new course requests are submitted through curriculum.osu.edu, indicate that those course requests are being submitted as part of a new certificate proposal. As much as possible, the curriculum committees will review the course requests in conjunction with the certificate proposal.

*Each student completing the certificate will be required to take two courses offered by the Department of Physics in computational physics, and two elective courses from the list given in the tables below. Students will be able to overlap their curriculum by 50%, as permitted by the rules of the certificate. **All courses listed are currently offered.***

**Required courses – All students must take the two courses listed below.**

Course number	Course Name	Credit hours	Prerequisites
Physics 5680	Big Data Analytics in Physics <i>Provides an introduction to machine learning and advanced algorithms, with an emphasis on practical physics-based applications, using publicly available data sets. The goal is to provide an introduction to Data Science for students who may want to pursue this as a career option and/or apply these techniques in a research environment.</i>	3	Enrollment in the Physics, Astronomy, Engineering Physics or ECE major; C- or higher in CSE 1222, CSE 1223, Engineering 1281H, or Astronomy 1221; C+ or higher in Physics 1251, or instructor permission.
Physics 5810	Topics in Computational Physics <i>Experimental and theoretical aspects of areas of current interest in computational physics.</i>	4	CSE 1222, CSE 1223, CSE 1224, Astronomy 1221, Engineering 1221, or Engineering 1281H; and Physics 5500.

**Elective courses – Students must take two courses from the list below.**

Course number	Course Name	Credit hours	Prerequisites
CBE 5780	Molecular Dynamics Simulations <i>Students learn to use standard open-source software to carry out molecular dynamics simulations on a supercomputer.</i>	3	Junior standing or above in Physics or Engineering Physics
Math 3607	Beginning Scientific Computing <i>Introduction to mathematical theory of algorithms used to solve problems that typically arise in sciences, engineering, and finance.</i>	3	C- or better in Math 2255 and Math 2568 or equivalents
CSE 5361	Numerical Methods <i>Numerical methods for scientific computation: computer arithmetic, rounding errors, machine precision, machine representation, root-finding, interpolation, integration, linear systems, splines, smoothing, curve-fitting, linear programming</i>	3	Math 2231, Math 2568, and Math 1151
STAT 3201	Introduction to Probability for Data Analytics <i>An introduction to probability and its role in statistical methods for data analytics. Equal emphasis is placed on analytical and simulation-based methods for quantifying uncertainty. Approaches to assessing the accuracy of simulation methods are discussed. Applications of probability and sampling to big-data settings are discussed.</i>	3	Math 1152, 1161.xx, 1172, 1181, or equiv; or permission of instructor.
ECE 5510	Introduction to Computational Electromagnetics <i>Numerical methods for solving maxwell equations both static and electrodynamics, introduction to finite difference, finite element and integral equation methods, and applied linear algebra.</i>	3	ECE 3010, Physics 5400, or permission by instructor



Math 5601	Essentials of Numerical Methods <i>Systems of linear equations, linear least squares, eigenvalue problems, nonlinear equations and optimization, interpolation, numerical integration and differentiation, numerical solution for ODEs, IVPs and BVPs.</i>	3	4556 and 2568 or permission by instructor
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- State the minimum number of credits required for completion of the certificate.

*Total 13 hours*

- Indicate the number of semesters expected to complete the certificate. Confirm that courses are offered frequently enough and have the capacity to meet this expectation.

*4 semesters, Note that there is sufficient frequency of courses so that there is at least one course a student may take each semester. Every course is offered at least on alternate years. The courses have the capacity to meet the enrollment expectation.*

- If applicable, describe existing facilities, equipment, and off-campus field experience and clinical sites to be used. Indicate how the use of these facilities, equipment, etc., will impact other existing programs.

*Resources from the Ohio Supercomputer Center will be used in several of the courses that are offered for the certificate.*

- For interdisciplinary certificates, describe the way in which advising and other student support will be provided.

*N/A.*

- If applicable, describe additional university resources (including advisors and libraries) that will be required for the new certificate.

*Advising and students support services are available through the department, college, and university, as is available to any student pursuing a program. In Physics, L. Thaler and D. Zach provide undergraduate student advising.*

- Provide ASC completion sheet for certificates.

*See Appendix B*

- Provide semester-by-semester sample program.

*Year 1:*

*Math 3607 (Autumn) or Physics 5680 (Autumn)*

*Physics 5810 (Spring) or CSE 5361 (Spring)*

*Year 2:*

*Physics 5680 (Autumn) or CBE 5780 (Autumn)*

*CSE 5361 (Spring) or Physics 5810 (Spring)*

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix A: Advising Sheet**

The Ohio State University  
College of Arts and Sciences

Computational Physics Certificate, Type 1b

**Advising Contact:**

Ms. Lindsey Thaler  
Director of Undergraduate Studies  
Academic Advisor for Physics and Engineering  
Physics  
Office: 1142 Physics Research Building  
Email: [thaler.21@osu.edu](mailto:thaler.21@osu.edu)

Mr. David Zach  
Academic Advisor for Physics and Astronomy  
Offices: 1140 Physics Research Building (MThF);  
4012 McPherson Lab (TuW)  
Email: [zach.11@osu.edu](mailto:zach.11@osu.edu)  
Phone: 614-292-1358

**Faculty Contact:**

Dr. Thomas Humanic  
Vice Chair for Undergraduate Studies  
Office: 2144 Physics Research Building  
Email: [humanic.1@osu.edu](mailto:humanic.1@osu.edu)  
Phone: (614) 247-8950

The Computational Physics certificate will clarify to students, grad schools, and employers that the student was engaged in a coherent set of undergraduate coursework to prepare the student to pursue computational physics as a career or to use it in graduate school.

The Computational Physics certificate requires a minimum of 13 credits drawn from Physics and other departments and distributed as follows:

**Take all of the following Physics courses:**

Physics 5680: Big Data Analytics in Physics (3 credits)

Physics 5810: Topics in Computational Physics (4 credits)

**Students will take two courses in other departments from the following list:**

CBE 5780: Molecular Dynamics Simulations (3 credits)

Math 3607: Beginning Scientific Computing (3 credits)

CSE 5361: Numerical Methods (3 credits)

STAT 3201: Introduction to Probability for Data Analytics (3 credits)

ECE 5510: Introduction to Computational Electromagnetics (3 credits)

Math 5601: Essentials of Numerical Methods (3 credits)

**Computational Physics Certificate Program Guidelines**

Credit hours required: A minimum of 13.

Overlap with degree program: A student is permitted to overlap up to 50% of credit hours between other degree program (major, minor, other certificate, or general education) and the certificate program.

Grades required

- Minimum C- for a course to be counted on the certificate
- Minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA for all certificate course work.

Course pre-requisites: Note that there are significant pre-requisites for all required and elective courses, and that students who are outside of the physics, engineering physics, and astronomy majors should speak with an academic advisor before attempting to pursue the certificate.

Certificate approval: The certificate may be approved by the student's assigned academic advisor via the Degree Audit Report (DAR). If the certificate is not complete on the DAR, the student must consult with a Department of Physics advisor, either Lindsey Thaler or David Zach (see contact information above).

Filing the certificate program form: The certificate form must be filed at least by the time the graduation application is submitted to a college/school advisor.

## Appendix B: Certificate Completion Sheet

College of Arts and Sciences

### Computational Physics Certificate Program

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student OSU Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate Advisor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Required Courses (7 credits):

Course (Hours)	Course Grade	Term Completed
Physics 5680: Big Data Analytics in Physics (3 credits)		
Physics 5810: Topics in Computational Physics (4 credits)		

#### Elective course -- Students must take two courses from this list (6 credits):

Course (Hours)	Course Grade	Term Completed
CBE 5780: Molecular Dynamics Simulations (3 credits)		
Math 3607: Beginning Scientific Computing (3 credits)		
CSE 5361: Numerical Methods (3 credits)		
STAT 3201: Introduction to Probability for Data Analytics (3 credits)		
ECE 5510: Introduction to Computational Electromagnetics (3 credits)		
Math 5601: Essentials of Numerical Methods (3 credits)		

Total credits (13): \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate Advisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix C: Assessment Plan

Upon completion of the academic certificate in Computational Physics, students will be better prepared to:

- (1) Write correct, clear, and well-documented computer code without errors that flows logically and is appropriate for solving physics problems
- (2) Explain which machine learning algorithm or other computational solution should be used to solve a physics problem
- (3) Articulate verbally or in writing the importance of being able to solve technical problems computationally versus relying solely on analytical methods

Assessment of the objectives of the certificate program will be carried out using direct and indirect measurements. In particular, the following data will be collected and analyzed to improve the quality of the program:

<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Data source (course/assignment)</b>	<b>Assessment method</b>	<b>Reporting schedule</b>
(1) Write correct, clear, and well-documented computer code without errors that flows logically and is appropriate for solving physics problems	Physics 5810 (Computational Physics) final project	Direct At least 70% of students will score 11 points (corresponding to “adequate”) or more on the final project in the categories of: - execution (code runs) - commenting - code structure - axes labels - legends - names (variable and function names are self-explanatory)	Once per year at the end of spring semester
	Computational Physics Certificate Exit Survey	Indirect Students report an average score of a 3 (out of 5) or higher in	Each semester a student is graduating from the certificate program

		agreement that this outcome has been met.	
(2) Explain which machine learning algorithm or other computational solution should be used to solve a physics problem	Physics 5680 (Big Data Analytics in Physics) final project	Direct 70% of students score a 75% (6 out of 8) or higher on the final project in the categories of: - student adequately explains the algorithm used and why - student adequately explains the results of the project	Once per year at the end of autumn semester
	Physics 5810 (Computational Physics) final project	At least 70% of students will score 11 points (corresponding to “adequate”) or more on the final project in the category of: -physics (code implements the appropriate physics for the problem)	Once a year at the end of spring semester
	Computational Physics Certificate Exit Survey	Indirect Students report an average score of a 3 (out of 5) or higher in agreement that this outcome has been met.	Each semester a student is graduating from the certificate program

(3) Articulate verbally or in writing the importance of being able to solve technical problems computationally versus relying solely on analytical methods	Physics 5680 (Big Data Analytics in Physics) final project	Direct 70% of students score a 75% (6 out of 8) or higher on the final project in the category of: - student adequately explains the problem their project focuses on and importance of solving the problem	Once a year at the end of autumn semester
	Physics 5810 (Computational Physics) final project	At least 70% of students will score 11 points (corresponding to “adequate”) or more on the final project in the category of: - validation (provides validation through error analysis, and/or comparison to known solutions/limiting cases)	Once a year at the end of spring semester
	Computational Physics Certificate Exit Survey	Indirect Students report an average score of a 3 (out of 5) or higher in agreement that this outcome has been met.	Each semester a student is graduating from the certificate program

**Response by Physics to ASC review of Computational Physics Certificate proposal**  
T. Humanic, July 14, 2023

Dear Rachel and Review Committee,

Thank you for your review of the Computational Physics Certificate proposal submitted by the Department of Physics. We have implemented your comments into a new version of the proposal. Below, we have responded to all of your comments, our responses in **bold lettering**.

Best regards,  
Tom Humanic, Professor and Vice Chair for Undergraduate Studies

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**Review of the Computational Physics Proposal by ASC; Email sent to Physics by Rachel Steele on 2/8/2023**

On Wednesday, Jan. 25th, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a new certificate proposal for the Computational Physics Certificate.

The Panel did not vote on the proposal as they would like the following points addressed:

a. The Panel asks that the department include with the proposal a cover letter on departmental letterhead that is signed by the department chair and/or the Vice-Chair for Undergraduate Studies.

**This has been done. A cover letter signed by the Vice-Chair for Undergraduate Studies has been included in the proposal package.**

b. The Panel requests that the department submit with the proposal the concurrence from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering that is mentioned on pg. 3 (item #3, Relationship to Other Programs/Benchmarking).

**Done. Concurrence has been obtained from ECE, and a statement of this is included in the proposal package.**

c. The Panel notes that one of the required courses for the certificate, Physics 5810, is not yet a fully approved course. Currently, the course still exists as Physics 6810; a course change request to change the course number and the pre-requisites was reviewed by this Panel on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and revisions were requested on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. As of Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, a revised Course Change Request has not yet been received by ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services. The Panel asks that the department revise that Course Change Request and re-submit it for review, as the Computational Physics Certificate cannot be approved until Physics 5810 is a fully approved course.

**Done. Physics 5810 is now a fully approved course.**

d. The Panel asks that the department address the following issues having to do with the assessment of the certificate.

- i. The Panel requests that the department provide information on how the first two learning outcomes for the certificate (proposal pg. 2) will be assessed. For example, will the department use pre- and post-tests or embedded questions in certain courses or certain specific questions that will clearly indicate that the learning outcomes have been



achieved? For the first two learning outcomes, the Panel asks that the department present sample examples of direct assessment methods (e.g., specific classroom assignments). The Panel recommends that the department consult with the College's Assessment Coordinator, Dan Seward.<sup>65</sup>, to create a more comprehensive assessment plan for the certificate.

- ii. The Panel notes that some of the measures earmarked for assessment (number of applications for the program, quality of the acceptant pool, and acceptance rate etc.) seem to indicate that students will have to apply to the certificate. The proposal, however, does not include any information about an application process. If the program requires an application, the Panel asks that the department provide more details about the application and the application process. If there is not an application, the Panel asks that the department remove these items from the assessment plan (proposal, pg.3).

**A revised assessment plan has been included in Appendix C of the updated proposal.**

e. The Panel asks that the department provide more information about the administrative structure that will govern the certificate so that there is a clear path for assessing the certificate, making changes to the certificate, or managing other administrative issues that may arise.

**This has been clarified. Text has been added that indicates that the VC for Undergraduate Studies, the Director of Undergraduate Studies and Undergraduate Studies Committee of the Department of Physics will serve as the administrative structure for the certificate.**

f. The Panel asks that the department amend the "Certificate approval" section of the advising sheet (found in the right-hand column toward the bottom). Specifically, they ask that the unit give students and academic advisors (both ASC and non-ASC) a contact within the Physics Department who can be consulted if the certificate coursework is not confirmed via the Degree Audit Report. The current wording refers students to any advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences; not all ASC advisors would have the expertise to review this. The Panel asks that the department replace the more general "*a College of Arts and Sciences advisor*" (in the phrase "the student must consult with a college of Arts and Sciences advisor") with a specific name or names of advisors in the department who will be able to assist students.

**Done. The text here has been amended to indicate that students should contact a Department of Physics advisor, either Lindsey Thaler or David Zach.**

g. The Panel asks that the department add to the description of the certificate on the advising sheet some information that communicates to students that there are significant pre-requisites for all required and elective courses, and that students who are outside of the physics, engineering physics, and astronomy majors should speak with an academic advisor before attempting to pursue the certificate. For example, Physics 5500, which is a pre-requisite for 5810/6810, has a number of pre-requisites itself, including a specific combination of math and physics courses that are rarely taken by students outside of the targeted majors.

**Done. A statement to this effect concerning pre-requisites has been added to the advising sheet.**

h. The Panel asks that the department address the following issues having to do with pre-requisites for the certificate's required courses (Physics 5680 and Physics 5810):

- i. The Panel notes that one of the required courses for the certificate, Physics 5680, has a pre-requisite of enrollment in the Physics, Engineering Physics, or Astronomy majors. If

the department wishes for the certificate to be open to students in other majors, the department may want to adjust this pre-requisite so that permission does not have to be obtained by outside students, especially since the department plans to market the certificate to Electrical and Computer Engineering majors as well.

**The pre-requisite statement has been expanded to now include ECE majors.**

- ii. The certificate proposal (pg. 5) lists the pre-requisites for Physics 5810 as “CSE 1222, CSE 1223, CSE 1224, Astronomy 1221, Engineering 1221, or Engineering 1281H; and Physics 5500, or instructor permission”. The course change request for Physics 5810 (currently in progress, please see item 2c above,) does not list instructor permission as a possibility for fulfilling the course pre-requisites, which could keep students from outside these majors from enrolling in the course. The Panel asks that this discrepancy be rectified.

**The statement “or instructor approval” has been deleted for Physics 5810. Physics 5500 is now required.**

- i. The Panel asks that the department remove all references to courses from the quarters system (indicated by three-digit course numbers) on pgs. 5 and 6 of the proposal.

**This has been done. References to three-digit course numbers have been removed.**

I will return the Computational Physics Certificate to the department queue via [curriculum.osu.edu](http://curriculum.osu.edu) in order to address the Panel’s requests.

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.

## ECE concurrence with Computational Physics certificate

Anderson, Betty Lise <anderson.67@osu.edu>

Mon 3/20/2023 12:55 PM

To: Humanic, Thomas <humanic.1@osu.edu>

Hi, Tom,

ECE concurs with the Computational Physics certificate proposed by Physics/

Betty Lise



Betty Lise Anderson Professor, Associate Chair  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
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