

The course learning tracker

The course learning tracker is a **simple chart that you can update weekly** as you attend lectures and complete homework, problem sets, and assignments. It's useful to set up a table like this somewhere you can **access it easily**—in the front or back of a notebook for a course, or somewhere prominent on your notetaking app. That way, whenever you need to add something about your progress, you'll be able to do so easily.

Key course concepts	Concept checklist	Problem checklist	Notes while learning
Vectors (key concept) - Intersections of lines and planes (application)			<i>How to visualize vectors in 3D... do I have to make a bunch of 2D diagrams? Ask prof during office hours Wed at 3:30</i>
Limits (key concept) - Evaluating limits algebraically & graphically (application)			<i>What do I do when I'm trying to evaluate a limit and I get 0/0? Post to discussion forum</i>
Derivatives (key concept) - Calculating velocity and acceleration (application) - Derivatives of trig functions (application)			

Key concepts: Make a list of key concepts here. Start early in the course, then add (or delete) as you learn more about what's most and least significant. If you can, add a one sentence description.

Concept checklist: Place a checkmark here if you understand the concept well enough to explain it to somebody else (e.g., try teaching someone else) or to write a brief description of it without using notes or books.

Problem checklist: Place a checkmark here if you can apply the concept or do the problem type on your own and explain your solutions. Focus on that explanation: if you understand the process that underlies your working, rather than just knowing the final answer, you'll be able to use the concept in any context.

Notes while learning: Add anything that helps you stay organized and track your progress with the concepts and problem types in the course. For example, remind yourself to ask questions of professors, TAs, and other students, or make notes of concepts that seem particularly significant to your progress because they are likely to come up on exams or be useful for another part of the course.

Course learning tracker example: PHYS 117

Key course concepts	Concept checklist	Problem checklist	Notes while learning
Kinematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinematic equations • Projectile motion 	✓	✓	How do I know what equation to use? Read through projectile motion chapter. Ask TA about x and y components
Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newton's laws • Incline planes 	✓		Emphasized during lectures, many questions on past exams, might be on this year's exam
Work and Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of energy • Work-energy theorem • Linear momentum • Power 	✓	✓	Review conservation of energy and springs
Gravitational, Electric and Magnetic Fields <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric fields • Magnetism 	✓		What is a positive test charge? Ask TA what direction electric field arrows are drawn
Wave Nature of Light <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interference • Polarization 			Do I have to memorize Planck's constant? Figure this out before the midterm
Quantum Mechanics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relativity 			Make a concept summary

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