

DEPARTMENT OF

# PHYSICS

## A few suggestions on how to get going on your physics degree:

### 1. Start with the right math class

- a. You need to complete at least three math classes as a physics major. Math 112, Math 215, and Math 316.
- b. The first of these, Math 112, is calculus. If you possibly can, start your first semester with Math 112. If you are just getting back from a mission, or if you took some time off after high school, you might be tempted to take Math 109 (pre calc) as a review. This is probably not a good idea. We will help you remember your math in your physics classes. So, it is probably best to jump into Math 112 if you possibly can. If you are really nervous, you can take the math placement exam (ALEKS) found [here](#). It will tell you exactly which math class you should take first.
- c. If you are really not ready for calculus (not just nervous because you have not used math for a while), do take Math 109 or take the ALEKS exam to know the right math class. Then the next semester (or as soon as you can) take Math 112.



**Evan Hansen**

DEPARTMENT CHAIR  
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Welcome to the Physics Department! My name is Evan Hansen and I currently serve as the Physics Department Chair. All of us in the physics faculty look forward to getting to know you as you begin your studies in Physics or Physics Education. We have a great group of physics professors who are dedicated to helping you succeed. You will find that your professors are friendly and helpful and would love to get to know you. Physics takes a bit of work (but it is totally worth it) and it helps to get started right.

## 2. Take Physics 121

This is the first physics class for physics majors (you don't need to take PH101 or PH105). Start with PH121. You need to be registered for Math 112 or to have already taken calculus to register for PH121 (which is why getting into Math 112 is so important).

## 3. Meet your faculty mentor

On your MyBYUI page you will find that you have been assigned to a faculty mentor. This is one of our physics professors that knows how to help with everything from track changes to homework problems. Your faculty mentor can answer questions about most parts of BYU-I life. Once you are here in Rexburg, go meet your faculty mentor. Fair warning, you won't be able to register until you meet with your faculty mentor. You will get to do this every semester. In this meeting you will discuss your registration plans for the next semester. Your faculty mentor will help you make sure your class choices are good and that you are progressing in your education and career goals.

## Helpful suggestions

We have compiled a whole bunch of other helpful suggestions into what we call our BYU-I Physics Student Handbook. You can find a copy on the physics department web site or through this link

<https://www.byui.edu/physics/student-resources> (then push the download button in the big blue box).

If you have questions or need help, come see me in the Romney Building or call me in the Physics Department Office:

(208-496-7737)

[hansenev@byui.edu](mailto:hansenev@byui.edu)

## 4. Join the Society of Physics Students and one of the research groups.

Come to an [SPS](#) meeting and find out what fun experimental groups are available. In the SPS you can get loads of help and advice from other physics students.

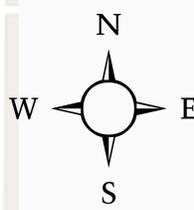
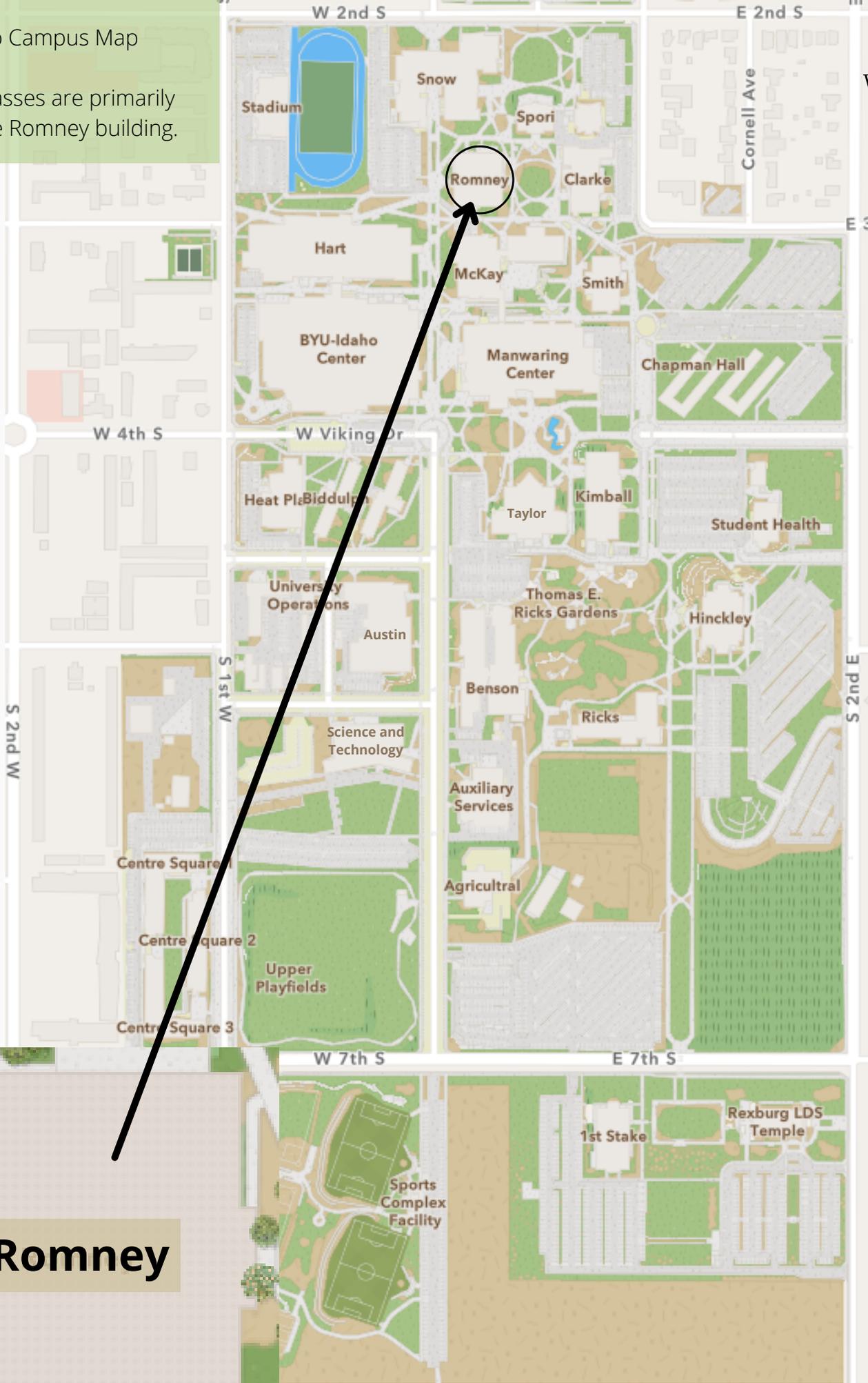
I hope your first semester here is a great one!

Sincerely,

Brother Hansen

BYU-Idaho Campus Map

Physics classes are primarily held in the Romney building.



**Romney**