

## The *Greater Benefit* of Taking an Introductory Physics Class:

While I was teaching physics at both a large public and then a mid size private university, there was a common question. “Why do I need to take physics?” The big picture answer is straight forward. The *problem solving skills you learn* in a physics class *can be applied to* many *diverse areas* in your life.

When we learn any new thing, including a particular area of physics, there is a period where we are going to be uncomfortable. Yet, the more times we experience this area of discomfort the faster the period of uncertainty may be reduced. We are able to take in information and process what is happening. This includes things we can’t see. We can then make decisions, evaluate, and adapt. Taking a class in physics strengthens this skill set. These skills are invaluable when it comes to: New classes or projects, College classes and experiences, Jobs and careers, Purchasing items, etc... From the greater benefit view, you are using the *same* cognitive process and applying it to many different areas.

As I tutor all ages in math, physics, and chemistry I am fortunate to see this process applied across the board. However physics covers more *seemingly* unrelated situations. It is the subject where we are taken out of our comfort zone the most. That’s great. Practice is important when learning to think. When you have had the experience of a physics class you reinforce and find new ways to think.

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