

1. INTRODUCTION

Laboratories offer an ideal opportunity to learn and strengthen, by means of actual observations, some of the principles and laws of physics that are taught to you in general physics lectures. You will also become familiar with measuring equipment and learn the fundamentals of preparing a report of the results.

Science is different than other subjects because the answers to scientific questions are not found in a textbook. The basis of what scientists believe is the result of the careful collection and analysis of laboratory evidence. In any physics class, the *differentness* of science will be most evident when it comes time for lab.

In physics class, lab is central. The laboratory is the place where physics students do physics. It is in the laboratory that physics students learn to practice the activities of scientists – asking questions, performing procedures, collecting data, analyzing data, answering questions, and thinking of new questions to explore.