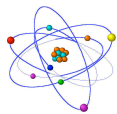
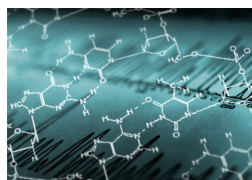


## SO, HOW DOES CHEMISTRY WORK ??



If you have a strong interest in studying science and have future plans for a career in the sciences, then you will most likely want to start taking Chemistry in the first semester of College. Doing so will provide you with many options for future study in any of the science majors offered at Sweet Briar. Getting "on-track" in Chemistry means that you'll take a Chemistry course and a lab in each semester of your first two years.



Usually First-Year Students begin their studies in Chemistry with the introductory college level course, General Chemistry (Chem 131) with lab, General Chemistry Lab (Chem 141). You will need to sign up for both the class and the lab. After completing General Chemistry in the fall of the First-Year, students interested in pursuing a career as a Biologist, Chemist or in the medical professions take Organic Chemistry I (Chem 231) in the Spring Semester. However CHEM 131 is the prerequisite for CHEM 231, CHEM 252 (Quantitative and Inorganic Chemistry) and CHEM 216 (Analytical Chemistry) and students interested in pursuing a career in physics or engineering might choose to take CHEM 252 in the Spring semester. Depending upon their goals, Environmental Science students can elect either CHEM 231 or CHEM 216 (please talk to your advisor for specific direction).

We have found that a student does not need a strong high school chemistry background in order to do well in college chemistry; however we have observed that a student does need solid math skills. For this reason, the placement eligibility for General Chemistry I (CHEM 131) is based upon your SAT or ACT math score. If you wish to start CHEM 131 in the fall of your first year, you need to have a minimum SAT math score of 480 or a minimum ACT math score of 19.

If you do not have the required SAT or ACT math score, you should consider taking either a college level math course or CHEM 120 (Chemistry for the liberal arts) before attempting CHEM 131.

If you have high SAT and ACT math scores and a strong high school background in chemistry, you might be ready to start in CHEM 231 (Organic I). If you have taken AP chemistry and scored either a 4 or a 5 on the AP exam or if you have had two years of high school chemistry with an average chemistry GPA of 3.5, you might want to consider CHEM 231 as your starting point in chemistry. Please make an appointment with Dr. Robert Granger (Chair of Chemistry) if you would like to discuss CHEM 231.

## Frequently asked Questions about Studying Chemistry And How to Get Started "On-Track"

### What is a "typical" course load for Chemistry students?

Most science students take a science class, a math class, and both English and a foreign language in the first semester. With labs, that will come out to about 15 credit hours, which is a full load.

If a student doesn't need a foreign language in the first year, then a second science course would be a great option!

### What about the General Education Requirements - Don't I need to get those finished first?

Absolutely not! For Science students, it is more important to get "on-track" with your math and science, than to worry about fulfilling gen-ed requirements. There will be plenty of time, over four years, for you to get those completed. Getting back on-track with your math and science is much more difficult in many respects. **HOWEVER!** If you're not sure that Science is for you - then **BY ALL MEANS** - try to take a variety of courses, early on, so that you can figure out where you want to go with your studies!



### I'm thinking about a double major and/or I am really serious about my riding or sports. Do either of these influence what I should take in the first year?

At Sweet Briar, many students each year double major in science-science; science-math; science-humanities; and science-arts combinations. In Chemistry, we have recent alumni and current students who chose double majors in: dance and chemistry, math and chemistry, classics and chemistry; studio art and chemistry - just to name a few. And don't forget, the major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is a great major for students whose interests combine biology and chemistry! From a course selection perspective - you just need to make sure that you get on-track in both majors as early as possible.



The only big consideration with respect to sports and riding is to choose your lab courses carefully to avoid conflicts with afternoon practices. Oftentimes, morning riding classes work out well to avoid conflicts with science labs and classes.

**If you have any questions about How Chemistry Works, please contact the Chair, Professor Rob Granger, who lives in Guion 209 most days from 8:00 am to at least 4:00 pm, call first - x6403, or send an email to [rgranger@sbc.edu](mailto:rgranger@sbc.edu)**