

CHEMISTRY PLACEMENT NOTES FOR ADVISERS

The Chemistry Department advises students who have serious interests in Chemistry, Biochemistry, or Medicine to elect CHEM 131, with lab (CHEM 141), in the **fall of the first year**. Doing so will put the student on-track in a four-year sequential curriculum. We welcome discussion with advisers and students who have questions about placement. Consult Rob Granger, Guion 209, x6403, rgranger@sbc.edu; or other members of the Chemistry Department.

The Chemistry Department's introductory course sequence is amiably known as "GOOG". In the GOOG sequence students will progress from General Chemistry to Organic Chemistry I in the first year. In the second year, students will complete Organic Chemistry II in the fall, followed by "Q&I". (Q&I = Introduction to Quantitative and Inorganic Chemistry, a course derived from the one formerly known as Gen Chem II)

GOOG Sequence

Fall CHEM 131/141 – Spring CHEM 231/233 – Fall CHEM 232/234 – Spring CHEM 252/253

First- and Second- Year Advising

Students interested in the life sciences will *likely* elect to take their Chemistry courses in the new sequence, and would be best advised to do so.

Students interested in majoring in Physics, Engineering, and Math will *likely* elect to move directly from General Chemistry I (CHEM 131) to Q&I (CHEM 252), skipping Organic completely. Students also have the option of taking Analytical Chemistry [CHEM 216] following CHEM 131.

A student interested in Environmental Science, depending on her long-term goals, may or may not need to take General in the fall. If she begins in Chemistry in the fall, she will need to discuss the appropriate second course for spring term with her advisor later in the semester.

Students interested in pursuing graduate study in Pharmacy, Medicine, Veterinary Science, or other pre-health career should be encouraged to take all four courses in the GOOG sequence.

Electing Chem 131/141 in the fall semester of the first year gives the student the widest range of options when selecting a major in the sciences.

Placement into Chemistry 131 is based upon either your SAT or ACT math score. Students with an SAT math score below 480 or an ACT math score below 19 should not take CHEM 131 without first completing either a college level math course or CHEM 120 (Chemistry for the Liberal Arts).

Placement out of Chemistry 131 and into a higher level chemistry course is based upon either an AP score of 4 or 5 or upon your high school performance in chemistry. If you did not take the AP exam but you have two years of high school chemistry with an average chemistry GPA of 3.5 and feel that you would like to be placed out of CHEM 131, make an appointment with Dr. Robert Granger (Chair of Chemistry).

The majority of students will be placed into Chem 131/141.

Important NOTE to Advisers: It is most common for science students to take *both* a course in math and a course in science each semester of the first year. By doing so, the students are best prepared for the sequential nature of the science curriculum, and leave more options open for choosing a major later. There is ample opportunity for students to fulfill the Sweet Briar general education requirements in later semesters.

Offerings

The Chemistry Department is able to offer the introductory courses in sequence. We are currently not able to offer any “off-sequence” courses (i.e. Gen Chem in the spring; Organic II in the spring; Organic I in the fall). Advisers should consider course availability when developing four-year plans for students. We offer multiple sections of many of our introductory courses; no qualified student should be closed out. If this is an issue, please contact the Chair.

Service Courses

(Advising students who are NOT interested in pursuing a major in the Sciences)

The Chemistry Department will be offering *Chemistry for the Liberal Arts* (CHEM 120) during the FALL semester for 11/12.

General Chemistry I (CHEM 131/141) is an appropriate introductory course for *most* incoming college students. Most of these students have taken chemistry and calculus in High School and are developmentally ready for the challenges of this course.

Department Policy – established August 2007

Advising Students about taking Chemistry in Summer School

The Department NO LONGER approves transfer requests of *many* “General Chemistry I”, “Principles of Chemistry”, “College Chemistry I”, or like sounding courses as the sole pre-requisite for taking Organic I here at Sweet Briar - unless the Institution at which the student is taking the summer course also follows a GOOG-type introductory sequence. Students, wishing to take Gen Chem elsewhere and return to Sweet Briar to take Organic Chemistry, need to complete an *entire year* (two courses) of General Chemistry (I and II, or like courses) off-campus in order to gain Department approval for taking Organic Chemistry here. Please note that our Organic I is a Spring term course – therefore taking a General Course over the summer may not necessarily save the student “time”. Please consult with the Chair on a case by case basis if there are ambiguities.