

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I take Chem 091 even if I have not completed Chem 11?

No, the web-based Chem 091 course requires a good introductory background to be successful in the course.

Does the Chemistry Department waive the prerequisites for Chem 101?

No, the Chemistry Department does not waive prerequisites. Students must complete Mathematics 12 and Chemistry 11 (or its equivalent) to enroll in Chem 101.

Since I can register in Chem 102 before I complete Chem 101, can I still take Chem 102 if I fail Chem 101?

No, successful completion of Chem 101 or Chem 150 is required prior to taking Chem 102.

Will the Chemistry Department waive the prerequisites for first and second year courses?

No, the prerequisites assure that students have the background needed in order to be successful in each course.

Can I challenge a chemistry course?

No. Course challenge is not available in the Chemistry Department.

Can I transfer chemistry courses without a lab to UVic?

Chemistry courses without lab components at other institutions are NOT equivalent to UVic chemistry courses which include a laboratory component. Under some circumstances you may get some unit credit for such courses, but in general you will have to take the UVic course. Consult the transfer advisor regarding the transfer value of such courses at UVic to avoid any misunderstanding.

When do I declare my program? Can I change my mind?

You can [declare](#) your program once you have completed 12 credits units. [Changes](#) can be made (one free per term).

I have started in a chemistry program, but I noticed that some program requirements have recently changed. What should I do?

You may choose to graduate under either the old or the new program requirements.

Which physics courses should I take?

Most chemistry students should take Phys 110 and 111 (equivalent to the old Phys 112). If you are especially interested in physics or math you may consider the Phys 120/130 combination.

I have taken Phys 102. What do I need to do to satisfy the physics requirement?

If you have been in Biology/Microbiology/Biochemistry and are transferring to Chemistry (or have taken Phys 102 for some other reason), please talk with the Chemistry undergrad advisor.

What counts as an elective?

All undergraduate courses (in any faculty) are acceptable for elective credit (see [calendar](#)). These

must still be chosen keeping in mind the other rules for degree requirements, such as the required number of upper level courses.

Can I take a 3rd-year science course for the 2nd-year science requirement?

In your chemistry degree, you must do some second-year science from outside Chemistry. Only certain 3rd-year courses may be substituted for this purpose. The general principle applied is that if a course is acceptable for students doing a degree in that discipline then it will probably be OK; if it is only available for elective credit in that discipline then it will not be acceptable.

How do I get into honours?

After you have completed your second year, you may be admitted into honours. There is no specific GPA entry requirement, but you will need a graduating GPA of 5.50 to graduate with an honours degree; the Chemistry Department does not track your GPA to see if you will satisfy this goal. To apply for honours, first see the Chemistry honours/majors advisor, who will email the advising centre that the Chemistry Department accepts you into honours. Then you need to go over to the advising centre to declare your honours program.

Should I do an honours degree?

This is largely a personal choice. In general, if you are doing well in your chemistry courses you should consider an honours degree. Some professional programs and graduate schools will admit students with a majors degree, but admission requirements across the country vary. If you plan on obtaining a second degree, you should consult with schools you are considering for further information.

What do I do if I miss a lab period?

Please contact the Senior Lab Instructor of the lab course immediately you know that you will miss it. Contact may be by phone, email or in person. The Senior Lab Instructors are listed in the manuals, on this web site and on the course web sites.

Chem 36x are independent lab courses ($x = 1$, analytical; $x = 2$, inorganic; $x = 3$, organic; $x = 4$, physical). Do I have to take the two halves of these courses in a specific order?

No, the order of terms is not important. For inorganic and organic, you can even take them as two consecutive fall terms or two consecutive spring terms as well as the more common fall + spring. For physical, the fall and the summer terms are the same, so the option becomes fall + spring or summer + spring. For analytical, the fall + spring pattern is currently the only option.