Southwestern University

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

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# General Chemistry Information for New Students

### *Which General Chemistry course should I take?*

There are two first semester General Chemistry courses. The selection of the course depends on your math proficiency. Students with SAT math scores above 620 should take CHE51-153/151. Students with SAT math scores below 620 should enroll in CHE-51-143/141, which has an additional weekly recitation (problem-solving) session. Students whose SAT math scores are below 550 should delay enrolling in General Chemistry until they improve their mathematical skills, ideally by taking courses such as Elementary Function Theory (MAT 52-123) and Calculus I (MAT 52-154).
Students are required to take the corresponding laboratory while taking General Chemistry.

### *When should I take General Chemistry?*

If you are considering majoring in chemistry or biochemistry, or a career in a health profession, it is recommended that you begin taking General Chemistry your first semester, unless your Math SAT score is below 550 (see above). You can still major in chemistry or biochemistry if you delay taking chemistry the first year. You should talk with a professor in the chemistry department to work out the details.

### *I am interested in a health profession. Which chemistry courses do I need?*

For students interesting in pursuing a health profession career, you should visit the following website: http://southwestern.edu/departments/preprofessional/premed.php. Please note that in order to take organic chemistry you will need to have successfully completed a year of general chemistry.

### *What if I have taken AP Chemistry in high school?*

Students may receive credit for General Chemistry I if they have received a 4 or 5 on the chemistry AP. If you plan to major in chemistry or biochemistry, or are considering a career in the health profession, it is recommended that you still take General Chemistry I. Please consult the chair of the chemistry department for more information.

### *Which courses do I need to take if I want major in chemistry or biochemistry major?*

Please consult the catalog requirements at:
http://southwestern.edu/academics/registrar/catalog/index.php

### *Who do I talk to if I still have questions about the chemistry or biochemistry degree requirements?*

You can speak with your academic advisor or a member of the chemistry department. Be sure to stop by during office hours which are usually posted outside the faculty member's office. The department will also be hosting an information session the week before school starts.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall!