

Smith College—Chemistry Placement Exercise 2023
Upperclass students should take this BEFORE leaving campus in May
First-years should take this as soon as possible, but definitely BEFORE registration

The Department of Chemistry offers an online placement tool to help assess students' prior preparation in chemistry. The exercise tests the following topics: significant figures, dimensional analysis, molar mass, stoichiometry and molarity. It is accessible on Moodle and consists of 12 questions. This includes 7 questions that require a numerical answer, plus 5 survey questions about your familiarity with topics on the assessment. The answers to the survey questions don't count in your score, but they may help us advise you about course selection.

You will need a calculator and access to a periodic table; we provide a link to an online periodic table on Moodle directly underneath the link to the exercise. **It is very important that you use scrap paper or the writing surface/instrument of your choice to work out the problems on the quiz**—they are complicated enough that you are very unlikely to get the correct answers without writing down work. You won't turn in your work, but without it your score will not provide useful placement information.

Please read the instructions on the Moodle page before you start the exercise, and pay attention to any instructions with each question. We expect it will take most students between 30 and 60 minutes to answer all the questions (not including any extra time accommodations if you normally use them), but there is no time limit.

Who should complete this exercise?

All students who are planning to take chemistry should take this, regardless of prior chemistry experience. We expect a range of chemistry backgrounds in our incoming students, typically from 0 to 2+ years of chemistry, and because of that we also expect a wide range of scores on this exercise.

How will you use my results?

Your results will help us steer you toward the correct introductory chemistry course(s). Most students start with CHM 111—for these students, your results will help us determine if you should also take a 1-credit course, CHM 110, at the same time as CHM 111. If you are interested in CHM 118 (this is for students with significant prior experience), your results will help us advise you on that placement. Note that your score on this exercise has no relationship to how well you will do in first-semester chemistry or beyond. Guidance on how to interpret your score will be posted on Moodle before registration, and you will also receive an email then with our placement recommendation.

How do I take the placement exercise?

Go to the following link: <https://moodle.smith.edu/course/view.php?id=47176> When you are asked for the Enrollment Key, enter **molecule**
Make sure to hit the "Submit all and finish" button after the final (12th) question.