

Smith College—Department of Chemistry Chemistry Placement Exercise 2020

The Department of Chemistry offers an online placement tool to help assess students' prior preparation in chemistry. The exercise tests the following topics: dimensional analysis, molar mass, stoichiometry and molarity. It is accessible on Moodle and consists of 18 questions, most of which require a numerical answer. 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. Please read the instructions on the Moodle page before you start the exercise. We expect it will take most students between 40 and 90 minutes to answer all the questions (not including any extra time accommodations if you normally use one), 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 new 1-credit course, CHM 110, at the same time as CHM 111. If you are someone who is interested in CHM 114 (this is for students with significant prior experience), your results will help us advise you on that placement.

Our guidelines are as follows, with the caveat that if you have reason to believe your results don't accurately reflect what you already know, we're happy to talk with you (information below):

- If you get fewer than 10 questions correct, you should take CHM 110 along with CHM 111. (If you are in this category and you were recommended for CHM 114 based on your past experience, please check in with us in person to figure out the best route for you.)
- If you get 10-13 questions correct, you should speak with a CHM faculty member to figure out if you should take CHM 110 or if you can just use the materials we provide from that course to brush up on one or two topics.
- If you get 14 or more questions correct, you do not need to take CHM 110; you should simply register for CHM 111, or for CHM 114 if your prior chemistry experience fits with that course.

Chemistry faculty from 111/110/114 will be available to talk about placement results with students via zoom during the Program Choice Sessions on August 26.

How do I take the placement exercise?

Go to the following link: <https://moodle.smith.edu/mod/quiz/view.php?id=574179> When you are asked for the Enrollment Key, enter **Chem_Placement**
Make sure to hit the "Submit all and finish" button after the final (18th) question.