

General Chemistry Credit by Examination

CHEM 105 General Chemistry I

<https://www.chem.wisc.edu/content/credit-exams>

CHEM 105 is the lecture only equivalent of CHEM 103 General Chemistry I, the first semester in a two-semester sequence in general chemistry. CHEM 105 is not available for general enrollment. Rather it is used for the purposes of awarding transfer credit or credit by examination.

Eligibility Requirements

It is expected that students who elect to take the CHEM 105 credit exam have already acquired knowledge and competency in General Chemistry from other experiences. As specified in the campus policy, a student must be classified as a degree-seeking undergraduate. They must be in good academic standing with no holds on their record. The exam may be attempted only one time.

To be eligible to take the CHEM 105 credit exam, students must:

- Satisfy math prerequisite, which is MATH 112, 114 or 171 or placement into MATH 211 or 221.
- Not already have credit for CHEM 103, 105, 109 or 115.
- Not be enrolled or previously enrolled beyond the add deadline in CHEM 103, 105, 109 or 115.

Any student who meets the above criteria is eligible to take the CHEM 105 exam. The following are some examples of situations for which a student might be a good candidate.

1. The student has transfer credit for CHEM 104, but is missing CHEM 103 credit.
2. The student took college level chemistry courses elsewhere, but none of their courses transferred as directly equivalent to CHEM 103.
3. A new first-year student has two or more years of high school chemistry, with the second year being AP Chemistry, but the student did not take the AP Chemistry exam.
4. A new first-year student has three or more years of chemistry from their high school experience, but none of the years was specifically AP or IB Chemistry.

Students in situations 3 or 4 above might be better served by simply taking CHEM 109, if they meet the math prerequisites. CHEM 105 (or CHEM 103) is not a prerequisite for CHEM 109. There is no reason for the student to pay for the CHEM 105 credit exam, if they intend to take CHEM 109. Students are encouraged to consult their academic advisor, if they are uncertain how to proceed.

Laboratory Requirement

The credit exam does not test laboratory skills, and therefore students do not earn credits for the laboratory component of General Chemistry when they pass the exam. Students who pass the CHEM 105 credit exam will in most cases be required to take CHEM 101 General Chemistry Laboratory I (the laboratory component of CHEM 103) to proceed to CHEM 104. Exceptions may be made for students who already have some college-level chemistry laboratory experience. CHEM 105 and CHEM 101 together are equivalent to CHEM 103.

Exam Dates

The exam will be offered each semester, typically a day or two before the start of classes. Students are strongly encouraged to take the exam no later than the start of their third semester at UW Madison. Taking the exam early will help the student prevent delays in progression through their major and avoid complications with residency requirements. Exam dates will be posted on the chemistry website.

Registration for the Exam

The cost of each exam is \$135. Registration and agreement to pay the exam fee are required prior to the exam date. The UW Bursar's Office will bill the student's account, irrespective of whether the student passes the exam. Students who register but do not show will be still be charged, unless they cancel at least 48 hours in advance by emailing undergrad@chem.wisc.edu. To register, go to <https://www.chem.wisc.edu/content/credit-exams>.

Preparing for the exam

The exam consists of approximately 40-50 multiple choice questions. It may also include a small number of free response questions. It is recommended that students review the material before taking the exam. Please see the [CHEM 105 topics list](#) for more information about the material covered. Additional guidelines are below.

- Students must present their UW-Madison photo ID at the time of the exam.
- Students will have two hours to complete the exam.
- Notes are not permitted.
- A scientific, non-graphing calculator is permitted. Graphing or programmable calculators are not. We have scientific calculators available for loan, if you don't have your own.
- A periodic table, physical constants, and relevant equations will be provided.

After the Exam

A score of 75% is required to pass the exams. Students will be notified via email about the results. If they pass the exam, they will also receive instructions on how to enroll in the corresponding laboratory component of the course. A fee of \$135 per exam will be charged to the student's UW Bursar account, irrespective of whether the student passes the exam. The Registrar's Office will post test credits on the student's record.

Questions

General inquiries about the credit exams, policies, or registration should be directed to undergrad@chem.wisc.edu.

Students seeking advising about their transfer credits and/or whether they are eligible for the credit exam should contact the chemistry advisor, Dr. Jeanne Hamers (jhamers@wisc.edu).