Late Transfers from Chemistry 109 to 103
Policies for Fall 2020

The Department of Chemistry offers a few different options for students needing to take general chemistry. Many students satisfy their general chemistry requirements with the two-semester sequence CHEM 103/104. Students with a strong background in math and chemistry have the option to take CHEM 109, a more advanced one-semester equivalent. Taking CHEM 109 allows students to satisfy their general chemistry requirements sooner and progress more quickly to other courses in their major. CHEM 109 is fast-paced and requires significant independence, time-management skills, creative problem-solving, and the ability to seek clarification when confused. To learn more about the differences between CHEM 103/104 and CHEM 109, please see Introductory Chemistry Courses and Placement.

Ideally, students will decide which chemistry course fits best with their background and goals no later than the semester add deadline, which is the Friday of the second week of classes. However, the Chemistry Department has a policy of allowing students who struggle in CHEM 109 to make a late transfer to CHEM 103 after the normal add deadline.

Swapping chemistry classes before the add deadline (Friday, September 11, 2020)

Prior to the add deadline, students are free to swap among any of the introductory chemistry courses (CHEM 103/104/109) for which they meet the requisites. No special permissions are required. If the section the student needs or wants is full, students are encouraged to get on the wait list. Students may email undergrad@chem.wisc.edu for assistance in identifying sections with the shortest wait lists.

Swapping from CHEM 109 to CHEM 103 after the add deadline (Sept. 12 to Sept. 25)

Only swaps from CHEM 109 to CHEM 103 are permitted after the Sept. 11 deadline. Late transfers from CHEM 109 to CHEM 104 or between other chemistry courses is not permitted.

Enrollment Assistance

Late transfers from CHEM 109 to CHEM 103 require special permission and are contingent on space being available in CHEM 103. Students may email undergrad@chem.wisc.edu from their UW-Madison email address to obtain assistance. Students should include their full name, 10-digit campus ID number, brief reason for wanting to swap, and a list of sections that work with their schedule.

Students can use Course Search & Enroll to identify sections with open seats. While we will do our best to accommodate as many students as possible, we cannot guarantee that a student will be able to find an open seat in a section that works with their schedule.

When to make the swap

Students are strongly encouraged to decide which chemistry course is the best fit for them as early as possible. The later the transition is made, the more difficult it is for students to learn the missed material and assimilate into their new class.

The deadline for late transfers is 4 pm on Friday, September 25, a few days after the first CHEM 109 midterm exam. Students will usually know their grade on their first CHEM 109 exam by this time.
Missed work from CHEM 103

Students will need to contact their new lead instructor and TA regarding work they have missed in CHEM 103. Students transferring late into CHEM 103 are expected to take the first CHEM 103 mid-term exam along with the rest of the CHEM 103 students. Students will not be penalized for missing work that was due before they joined the class. They will either be given an opportunity to make up the work, or they will be excused from the missed work, depending on their new instructor’s policies. Students are responsible for learning the material that was covered before they joined the class. They can expect to see this material on the first exam and/or on the final exam. Much of the material covered in the first few weeks of CHEM 103 is the same material that CHEM 109 students are expected to know at the start of the semester, but students transferring late will encounter a few unfamiliar topics as well.

CHEM 103 Course Materials

CHEM 103 uses a free online textbook. Students transferring to CHEM 103 will need to subscribe to the OWLv2 online homework system. They will automatically be charged $38.81 for this subscription via their UW-Madison tuition bill. Instructions for subscribing are provided in Module 0 of the CHEM 103 Canvas courses.

Removal of DR (drop) notation on transcript

For fall 2020, the deadline for dropping a class without a DR notation appearing on the student's transcript is Wednesday, September 9. If a student swaps from CHEM 109 to 103 after this deadline, the Department of Chemistry will petition the dean of the student's college to have the DR notation removed. If the dean approves, CHEM 109 will not appear on the transcript under the fall 2020 semester. Instead, the CHEM 109 drop is backdated and a note will sometimes be placed in the memoranda section of the transcript. The memoranda section appears on the Student Record (also known as an unofficial transcript) that students can view through their Student Center. The memoranda section does not appear on the student’s official transcript. This administrative process is not usually completed until the following spring semester. Please note that having just one or two DR notations on a transcript does not adversely affect a student. A pattern of DR notations late in the semester or over multiple semesters could be more problematic.

Key Dates

- **Wed, Sept 9**  Last day to drop without DR notation on transcript
- **Fri, Sept 11**  Last day to add a course without departmental approval
- **Mon, Sept 21**  CHEM 109, first mid-term exam
- **Fri, Sept 25, 4:00 pm**  Last day to transfer from CHEM 109 to CHEM 103
- **Wed, Sept 30**  CHEM 103, MWF Lectures (Lectures 1, 2, 3, & 5), first mid-term exam
- **Thurs, Oct 1**  CHEM 103, TR Lectures (Lectures 4 and 6), first mid-term exam