

Guidelines for Chemistry Courses

General Chemistry I and II at Messiah University are standard, college-level chemistry courses for science and engineering majors, and some health program majors. General Chemistry I (CHEM 105) does have a prerequisite of high school chemistry. **If you have not taken high school chemistry, you cannot enroll in General Chemistry I.** In addition to the high school chemistry prerequisite, all students will be required to earn a satisfactory score on a 20-point math assessment on the first day of class. This assessment is taken without a calculator and emphasizes a conceptual understanding of numbers, units, exponential notation, fractions, and some algebra. Those who have not taken high school chemistry or receive a non-satisfactory score on the math assessment, must enroll in our Introductory College Chemistry course, CHEM 101. This class uses the same text as General Chemistry, but moves at a slower pace, focusing intentionally on the mathematics needed for success in chemistry courses. It is offered in the fall semester. It does not have a laboratory component and thus CHEM 101 does not meet any general education requirements.

Chemical Science (CHEM 103) is offered every fall semester, and is an introduction to general, organic and biochemistry, and is required for nursing majors and other pre-health professionals. High school chemistry is strongly recommended as a prerequisite to this course, but it is not an absolute requirement. There is NO placement process for this course. However, if you did not take high school chemistry or suspect that your chemistry background is weak, you might consider taking CHEM 101 in preparation for CHEM 103.

The following flow chart will help you make the right decision when registering for your fall chemistry course.

