

## Which Class is Right for Me?

The Department of Chemistry offers many different pathways that all lead to the successful completion of a BA or BS degree in chemistry. Students without AP or equivalent credit have the simplest decision making process: enroll in CHEM 121/123 in the Fall semester. Students entering with AP credit or other equivalent preparation have the most flexibility in course selection and they have three different options, which can be described below.

### **Option 1: Take none of your AP Chemistry credit**

*Fall: CHEM 121/123 - General Chemistry I and General Chemistry Lab I*

*Spring: CHEM 122/124 - General Chemistry II and General Chemistry Lab II*

This is the standard introductory chemistry sequence and the classes that **most students** will take. If you took AP Chemistry, but you do not feel confident in the level of your chemistry preparation from your AP or equivalent work, this is the best option for you. One advantage of this approach is that you will see many of the same topics which you covered in AP Chemistry again and will have an opportunity to reinforce your existing knowledge. This should also make this course somewhat easier for new matriculates. The disadvantage is that you can not use credit for both your AP work and CHEM 121 / 123.

### **Option 2: Take one semester of your AP Chemistry credit**

*Fall: CHEM 201/205 - Advanced Topics in General Chemistry and Advanced Topics in General Chemistry Lab*

*Spring: CHEM 360 - Inorganic Chemistry*

This pathway is recommended for students with AP or equivalent credit who are considering a major (BA or BS) in chemistry. CHEM 201/205 is a more advanced version of General Chemistry and it is designed for incoming students with AP or equivalent credit. The course assumes that you have a good background in introductory chemistry and it will focus on the more advanced topics for upper-level chemistry courses. CHEM 201/205 is one semester long, compared to CHEM 121/122/123/124, which is two semesters. This option allows you to take your AP credit for first semester general chemistry and replaces your second semester of general chemistry AP credit. CHEM 201/205 satisfies the prerequisites for any course requiring CHEM 121/122 /123 /124. Upon completing this course, students intending to major in chemistry are recommended to take CHEM 360 in the Spring.

### **Option 3: Take both semesters of your AP Chemistry credit**

*Fall: CHEM 211 or CHEM 319 - Organic Chemistry I*

*Spring: CHEM 212 or CHEM 320 - Organic Chemistry II*

These are the organic chemistry I and II options. Students intending to major in chemistry should enroll in CHEM 319/320, while other students should enroll in CHEM 211/212. Taking organic chemistry in the first year is only available to students who have AP or equivalent credit for General Chemistry. The advantage of taking the full year of Chemistry AP credit is that it facilitates students seeking to take additional upper level courses, double major or reduce their courseload during their junior/senior years. The disadvantage is the challenge presented by the organic curriculum for new matriculates. Students not intending to major in chemistry, but who have AP or equivalent credit, can also consider taking no chemistry course in the Fall semester and starting CHEM 211 in the Spring semester.

**Note about AP and equivalent credit:** Students with AP credit will receive credit for CHEM 111/112/113/114. These credits are the equivalent to CHEM 121/122/123/124 for any prerequisites, but they do not count towards the Group 3 distribution requirement.

**Note for pre-medical students:** Please consult with the Office of Academic Advising (OAA) for advice on which path is best for you, as some medical schools do not accept Chemistry AP credit.