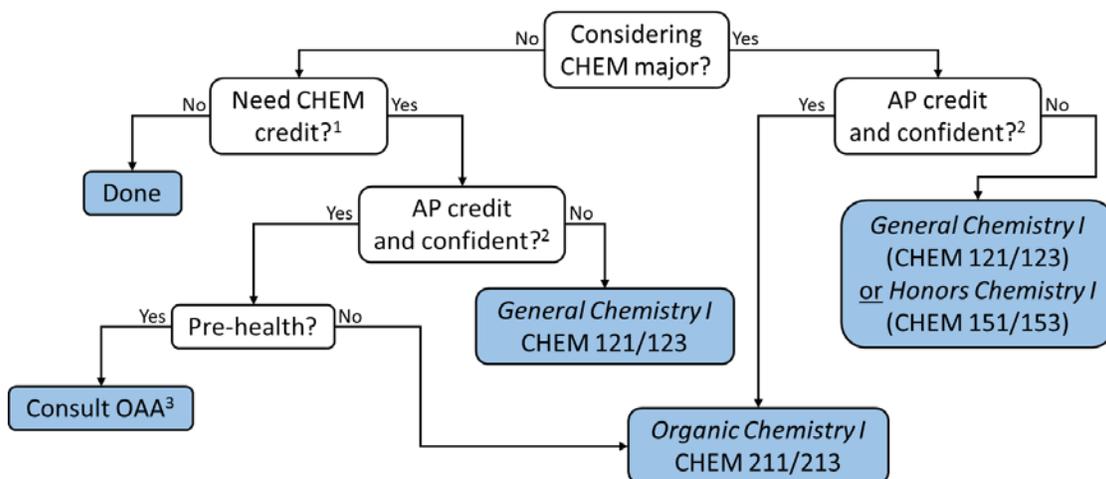


## Which Chemistry Class is Right for Me?

This document is designed to help you select the appropriate chemistry course to take during your first year. For any questions, please refer to the notes below and consult an appropriate academic advisor.



### CHEM 121/123 – General Chemistry I and General Chemistry Laboratory I

CHEM 121 is the first-year chemistry course most freshmen take. It is an introduction to chemical phenomena, suitable for a wide variety of student backgrounds and interests. The course emphasizes concept development, problem solving, and foundational methods in chemistry. Students must also register for CHEM 123. Please refer to the CHEM 123 syllabus for important information regarding lab enrollment.

### CHEM 151/153 – Honors Chemistry I and Honors Chemistry Laboratory I

CHEM 151 is a first-year chemistry course aimed at students who plan on majoring in a chemistry-related field and/or taking upper division chemistry courses. It is a deeper introduction to chemical phenomena emphasizing principles and theories. A strong command of high-school chemistry, with or without AP credit, is expected. This course is strongly recommended for prospective chemistry majors, although CHEM 121 is also suitable for the Chemistry major requirements. Students must also register for CHEM 153.

### CHEM 211/213 – Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry Discussion

CHEM 211 is often taken during the second year at Rice, but some students with a very strong AP chemistry background are adequately prepared to take this course during their freshman year. This course covers organic molecules, with emphasis on structure, functional groups, bonding, and reaction mechanisms. CHEM 211 is offered both fall and spring semesters; some students elect to wait until the spring semester to take CHEM 211, for a variety of reasons. There is no laboratory course accompanying CHEM 211. The organic chemistry laboratory course (CHEM 215) is typically taken together with *Organic Chemistry II* (CHEM 212/320). Students must also register for CHEM 213.

#### Notes:

1. **Need CHEM credit?** Not all degrees require chemistry beyond the first year — please check the General Announcements for more information regarding specific degree requirements. All pre-health professional tracks require at least one year of chemistry. AP Chemistry credit counts towards the Group 3 distribution requirement. Of course, you may take additional chemistry coursework as an elective.
2. **Confident?** Many students who have AP Chemistry credit are not confident in their knowledge of chemistry. This may depend on the quality and rigor of your high school courses or on the length of time since you last took a chemistry course. Many students find it helpful to take General Chemistry at Rice, and thus forgo their AP credit, to solidify their background for advanced chemistry coursework or for professional school requirements. Students interested in majoring in chemistry are strongly encouraged to speak to a major advisor to determine the best first-year course to take.
3. **Consult OAA.** Some medical schools may not accept AP credit for application to medical school. As such, you should seek advice about whether to take your AP credit. Contact the [Office of Academic Advising](#) (OAA) for more information.