Chemistry Advising FAQs

Enrolling in Lectures and Labs

Q: If a chemistry lecture course has a laboratory associated with it, am I required to enroll in the laboratory during the same semester that I enroll in the lecture?
A: You can take the lecture without the lab in a given semester, and then take the lab in a subsequent semester, if the laboratory is a separate course from the lecture (has its own course number and CRN). Keep in mind, though, that the lab typically reinforces the concepts taught in lecture and aids in the understanding of the lecture. It is strongly recommended that you take lecture and lab concurrently. You should consult with your academic advisor before enrolling in a lecture and its associated laboratory during different semesters.

You must also consider that all chemistry laboratory courses have prerequisite(s) and/or corequisite(s). Prerequisites must be completed prior to taking the course in question; corequisites are taken at the same time as the course in question. For example, if you check the course description for CHEM 1251L, you will notice that the prerequisite or corequisite for the course is CHEM 1251 (lecture). This means that you have the option of taking CHEM 1251L during the same semester in which you enroll in CHEM 1251 lecture (corequisite) or after you have already completed CHEM 1251 lecture (prerequisite).

Whether the lab is a requirement for the degree you are pursuing (or may pursue later) is a question you should discuss with your academic advisor.

Q: Can I take CHEM 1251L concurrently with CHEM 1252L?
A: You are not allowed to do this because CHEM 1251L is a prerequisite for CHEM 1252L.

Q: If I enroll in a lecture course (i.e., CHEM 1204), am I automatically enrolled in the associated lab (i.e., CHEM 1204L)?
A: No. A chemistry laboratory is usually a separate course from its respective lecture course. It carries its own credit (usually one credit hour) and grade. The exceptions to this are CHEM 3111, 4111, 4121, 4133, 4135, and 4171 which are combined lecture/laboratory courses. If you want to take the lab for any other course, you must register for it in addition to the lecture course.

Q: If I withdraw from a lecture course, am I allowed to remain in its associated lab?
A: No. You will be withdrawn automatically from the associated lab if you withdraw from a lecture course. This is because the lecture is a co-requisite or prerequisite to the lab. However, the Chemistry Department will consider allowing students who are enrolled in CHEM 1251/1252/2131 lecture to remain in the associated laboratory under certain conditions. A student wishing to withdraw from CHEM 1251/1252/2131 lecture but retain the co-requisite lab may be allowed to do so if the following conditions are met: (1) the student must make a formal written request to the lecture instructor on the “Request to Retain
Co-Requisite Chemistry Laboratory Form” no later than seven calendar days before the deadline to withdraw from a course with a “W” grade; and (2) the lecture instructor must determine that the student has actively participated in the course up to the due date for submitting such a request. Decisions will be made during the week prior to the deadline for withdrawing from a class. The decision of the instructor is final.

Lecture Schedule Times

Q: There are different times posted on the schedule for each section of some chemistry courses. What do these times mean?
A: The first time posted on the schedule is the lecture time. This is when the instructor covers new course material. You are strongly urged to attend every lecture period of every course in which you enroll.

The second time posted is the problem session time. Problem sessions provide a forum for students to ask the instructor questions about course material, homework problems, Problems of the Day, etc. You are strongly encouraged to participate in problem sessions as this will help you to perform well in the course.

A third time may be listed. The third time posted is the quiz/common exam time. This is when the quizzes and exams are administered. Quizzes and exams are given according to the dates indicated in the syllabus. You are required to take your quizzes and exams during the quiz/exam time posted for your section unless you have made prior arrangements with your instructor.

Q: Can I attend a problem session for a course section other than the one in which I am enrolled?
A: Some instructors allow students enrolled in their course to attend whatever problem session best suits their schedule, even if the problem session is with another instructor. For example, students in CHEM 1251 and 1252 may attend any problem sessions they wish to attend. Some students elect to attend more than one problem session per week for the same course because they find the problem sessions to be very helpful. You should consult with your instructor if you are unsure about the policy on problem session attendance for the course in which you are enrolled.

General Chemistry versus Principles of Chemistry

Q: What is the difference between General Chemistry (CHEM 1203/1204) and Principles of Chemistry (CHEM 1251/1252)?
A: CHEM 1203/1204 is primarily for pre-nursing majors. CHEM 1251/1252 is primarily for science and engineering majors and for students who wish to attend certain types of professional schools. For example, if you are a pre-pharmacy, pre-medical or pre-dental student, you should take CHEM 1251/1252, not CHEM 1203/1204.
Q: Will CHEM 1203/1204 meet the entrance requirements for medical, dental, or pharmacy school?
A: No. You need to take CHEM 1251/1252 if you plan to enroll in dental, medical, or pharmacy school. It is imperative that you speak with Dr. Elizabeth Hanie, UNC Charlotte’s Pre-Health Advisor, as early in your academic career as possible if you wish to seek admission to one of the above types of professional schools. Dr. Hanie can be reached at eahanie@uncc.edu. Please check with the pre-health advising website for additional information.

Credit by Exam

Q: Can I receive credit for a chemistry course by taking an examination?
A: The Chemistry Department offers a Credit by Exam option for CHEM 1251 and CHEM 1251L to students currently enrolled at UNC Charlotte. Please contact the Chemistry Department Office (or Dr. Richard Jew) to request administration of the exam. A Credit by Exam form must be completed and the $15 exam fee must be paid at the Cashier’s Office before the exam is administered. You can pick up the Credit by Exam form in the Office of the Registrar (141 King) or the Chemistry Department Office (200 Burson).

Course Grades

Q: What are the course grade requirements for chemistry courses if I am a chemistry major?
A: You should always strive to get the best grades possible in all of your courses. You need to have, at the time of graduation, at least a 2.0 GPA in your chemistry courses and all other courses counted in your GPA at UNC Charlotte to graduate with a degree in chemistry.

Certain chemistry courses require that you earn a grade of C or better in one or more prerequisite courses. For example, you will not be permitted to enroll in CHEM 2132 unless you have earned a grade of C or better in CHEM 2131. You should check the Undergraduate Catalog or Banner Self-Service for prerequisite grade requirements for specific courses.

Q: How many times may I repeat a course for credit and how will it affect my GPA?
A: The 2009-10 Undergraduate Catalog states the following about repeated courses:

“A student may receive credit for a course one time only, unless the course description specifies that it “may be repeated for credit.” However, students can repeat a course to improve their GPAs under two different sets of conditions. In the first case, within the limits specified in the next paragraph, a student may replace a grade. This process is called “With Grade Replacement.” In the second case, a student may repeat a course with the new grade averaging in with all others for this same course. This is
specified in the second paragraph below as “Without Grade Replacement.”

**With Grade Replacement.** Undergraduate students may replace up to two (2) courses (maximum of 8 hours) for grade replacement. Both grades will be reflected on the transcript. However, the higher of the two grades will be used in calculation of the GPA. This policy applies to courses first taken in Fall 2007 and thereafter. (NOTE: Some courses in the College of Health and Human Services may not allow grade replacement.) All courses for which a grade of A, B, C, D, or F may be assigned are eligible for grade replacement under this policy. The course to be replaced and the repeat course must have their grades assigned by UNC Charlotte. Students must file a completed “Grade Replacement Form” with the Office of the Registrar by the last day to drop a course with no record in the semester or summer session in which the course is to be repeated. A repeated course may not be selected retroactively to use this grade replacement policy. In classes for which the final grade assigned was an F or a D, the student may file the grade replacement form without further approval, providing it is within the course and hour limits specified in this policy. In classes for which the final grade assigned was a C or better, the student must obtain approval of the Department Chair and the College Dean of the student’s program or major, and remain within the two-course, eight-hour limitations of this policy. Once a student has filed a grade replacement form for a course, that choice cannot be revoked due to withdrawing from the class or from the University. [Medical or special circumstances may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.] The original course grade will be the grade of record for the course and not the W. Any such withdrawal still consumes one of the two course substitutions permitted under this policy. Students enrolled in special topics classes for a grade replacement must enroll in the same topic for which they originally received the grade to be replaced. A grade received owing to an admitted or adjudicated academic dishonesty violation shall not be replaced if the course is repeated. This exception is not subject to appeal or academic petition.

**Without Grade Replacement.** In all courses which are not identified as being repeatable for additional credits, a student who has received a grade of C, H, P or better in a course may repeat that course only with prior approval of the student’s advisor, department chair, and dean. An undergraduate student who received a D, F, or U in a course may repeat a course without seeking outside approval. All grades for repeated courses will be shown on the student’s official transcript and be used in the
calculation of the grade point average. For prerequisite purposes, the most recent grade will be used whether or not it is the highest.”

Q: I plan to attend graduate or medical school upon graduation from UNC Charlotte. I have heard that many of these schools require a “B” or better in Organic Chemistry. Is that true?
A: Medical, dental, and pharmacy schools generally do not specify that you need to obtain a “B” in Organic Chemistry at your undergraduate institution. Entrance into these programs is, however, quite competitive, so you should strive to achieve as high a grade point average as you can. You should consult with Dr. Elizabeth Hanie about questions concerning entrance requirements for the professional schools listed above.

Q: Do I have to get a C or better in CHEM 1251 if I am going to take CHEM 1252?
A: Yes. The prerequisite for CHEM 1252 is CHEM 1251 with a grade of C or better. In addition, the prerequisites for CHEM 2131 (Organic Chemistry I) are CHEM 1251 and 1252, both with a C or better. Be advised that the Chemistry Department checks these prerequisites very carefully.

Transfer Credits

Q: How many credit hours am I allowed to transfer into UNC Charlotte from another institution?
A: According to the Undergraduate Catalog, you may transfer a maximum of 64 semester hours of credit from two-year institutions and up to 90 credit hours from 4-year colleges and universities. University policy requires that the final 30 credits must be taken in residence at UNC Charlotte. Students transferring credit should also remember that though some transfer credits may satisfy major requirements, at least 12 credits of major requirements must be taken here.

Q: What if I have taken more than the maximum of 64 credit hours at a two year institution?
A: You can choose which courses you would like to count towards your UNC Charlotte degree by asking the Registrar to eliminate the courses you do not wish to keep.

Q: I took a general chemistry course at another institution. It transferred in as CHEM 0001. Can I have this changed to reflect a transfer equivalent of a General Chemistry (CHEM 1203/1204) or Principles of Chemistry (CHEM 1251/1252) course here?
A: The course you took elsewhere may be reevaluated by the Chemistry Department. You will need to provide a course description and a syllabus, if possible, from the transferring institution. Please contact Dr. Kathy Asala to have a chemistry course reevaluated.
Q: What are the chemistry course equivalents for the North Carolina Community College system?
A: Please see the table below for course equivalents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transferring course:</th>
<th>UNC Charlotte equivalent:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHM115 and 115A</td>
<td>CHEM0001 (Science elective)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM121 and 121A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CHM130 and 130A</td>
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<td>CHM135 and 135</td>
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<td>CHM131 and 131A</td>
<td>CHEM1203 and CHEM 1203L</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHM132</td>
<td>CHEM1204 lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHM151 w/lab</td>
<td>CHEM1251 and CHEM 1251L</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHM152 w/lab</td>
<td>CHEM1252 and CHEM 1252L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM251 w/lab</td>
<td>CHEM2131 and CHEM 2131L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM252 w/lab</td>
<td>CHEM2132 and CHEM 2132L</td>
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</tbody>
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Wait Lists

Q: I want to register for a course, but it is closed because the section has reached its maximum enrollment. Can I get onto a wait list for the course and, if so, how?
A: The Chemistry Department does not maintain wait lists for any chemistry courses. Enrollments do fluctuate during the add/drop period, so you should keep checking Banner to see if a seat opens up in a particular course.

Adding a major or changing a major

Q: I changed my major after a new catalog was issued. Which catalog do I follow?
A: The General Education requirements are determined by the catalog in effect when you first enroll at UNC Charlotte. The major requirements are determined by the catalog in effect when you officially declare the new major.

Chemistry Seminar

Q: Am I required to take the Chemistry Seminar series (3695, 4695, and 4696)?
A: All chemistry majors are required to take the Chemistry Seminar course series as part of their degree requirements.

Q: What should my current class standing be when I enroll in these courses?
A: There is no class standing requirement for CHEM 3695, but most students who take this course have reached junior standing (a minimum of 60 credits). CHEM 4695 and 4696 require senior standing and CHEM 3695 taken as a prerequisite.
Q: When should I take the different Chemistry seminar courses?
A: You must enroll in CHEM 3695 at least three semesters before you plan to graduate. You must enroll in the first semester of CHEM 4695 at least one semester before you graduate, and CHEM 4696 by the semester you plan to graduate.

Q: If I am a double-major, what are the seminar requirements, and can a seminar from the department of my second major be substituted for one of the Chemistry seminars?
A: Under certain circumstances, you may count one seminar course offered in your other major department towards your degree in chemistry, but this requires prior approval by the Chemistry Department. For example, students who major in Biology and Chemistry may substitute BIOL 4600 for CHEM 4695. You can obtain prior approval by submitting a Chemistry Department Special Request form (available in Burson 200) to Dr. Kathy Asala.

Directed Undergraduate Research

Q: What are the requirements for enrolling in Directed Undergraduate Research (CHEM 4900)?
A: The only requirement for enrolling in CHEM 4900 is consent of the professor who will serve as your research advisor. You are encouraged to discuss research interests with several faculty members prior to deciding on the professor with whom you wish to conduct undergraduate research so that you will develop a more comprehensive understanding of research opportunities in the Chemistry Department.

Although Directed Undergraduate Research is listed as a 4000-level course, you are not required to have any particular class standing (i.e. junior, senior) in order to enroll in CHEM 4900. Students in their freshman through senior years participate in Directed Undergraduate Research. In fact, students are encouraged to get involved in undergraduate research as early as possible in their academic careers.

You do not have to major in chemistry to enroll in CHEM 4900. Directed Undergraduate Research in Chemistry is open to students of all majors. Please contact Dr. Kathy Asala or Dr. Tom Schmedake if you are interested in pursuing Undergraduate Research.

Q: What fields of research are available in CHEM 4900?
A: Research in the “traditional” fields of chemistry (analytical chemistry, biochemistry, inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, and physical chemistry) is available throughout the Chemistry Department. Be aware, however, that most of the chemistry faculty members have research interests that span several areas of science (see “link for faculty research interests”). Examples include
biomaterials, biosensing, supramolecular chemistry, nanoscale science, organometallic chemistry, optoelectronics, materials, bioanalytical chemistry, and others. You may be unaware of some of these areas of research, some of which could potentially be very interesting to you. This is why it is important for you to discuss possible research projects with several faculty members prior to committing to join a particular research group.

You should also be aware that there can be many different types of projects within the same research group. For example, a professor who is listed as an organic chemist may have some projects that involve a lot of “wet” chemistry (synthesis, making molecules) and at the same time may have other projects that require heavy use of instrumentation and little or no synthesis (for example, a project that involves kinetic studies using NMR spectroscopy). It is important to consult with the faculty to find out what types of projects are available.

Q: **How many hours can I take of CHEM 4900 in a semester?**  
A: You may take CHEM 4900 for 1 - 4 credit hours, depending on your research advisor’s advice and your schedule. Each credit hour of research typically requires 3-4 hours of laboratory work per week. Students who wish to register for more than 4 credit hours of research need to consult with their research advisor.

Q: **In what semesters is CHEM 4900 offered?**  
A: CHEM 4900 is offered during every fall, spring and summer session of every academic year.

Q: **Can I repeat CHEM 4900 for credit?**  
A: Absolutely. There is no limit on the number of times you may repeat CHEM 4900 for credit.