



BROWN

Chemistry Department

# A FAQ Guide for First Year Students

## Introductory Chemistry & Advanced Placement

*What introductory classes do you offer?* **CHEM0330 and CHEM0100**

The Department of Chemistry offers two introductory level chemistry courses.

**CHEM0100** (Introductory Chemistry) is designed for students with little or no background in chemistry. It is only offered as an on-line non-credit course during the summer and as a for-credit course in Semester I. This course does not have a lab, and can only be taken S/NC.

Students who successfully complete CHEM0100 should be well prepared to enroll in CHEM0330 - Semester II. Professor Russo Rodriguez teaches CHEM0100 in Summer and Fall 2009.

**CHEM0330**, (Equilibrium, Rate & Structure) a one-semester general chemistry course, is designed for students who have had a solid preparation in chemistry in high school. In Academic Year 2009-10, it will be offered in both Semester I and II. Although the department prefers that students have two years of chemistry background before taking the course, in practice, most students who have had a good chemistry course in high school are prepared to enroll in CHEM0330.

Three sections of CHEM0330 will be offered in Fall 2009. Professors Stratt, Bazemore-Walker, and Sweigart will teach these sections. In addition, Professor Rose-Petruck will teach one section of CHEM0330 in Spring 2010.

*I notice when I register for CHEM0330 there are four components of this course, do I need to register for all of these components?* **Yes.**

In order to successfully register for CHEM0330, you must register for each component in the same registration session.

The four components are:

*Common Meeting* – this component is a tool the Registrar utilizes to organize the enrollment. Despite the name (!) this component does not actually meet.

*Primary Meeting* – this component is the lecture section of the course. This component meets either two or three times per week. (See Banner website for days/times)

*Conference* – this component is the pre-lab instruction. This component meets once per week and is offered at 12:00 pm Monday - Friday.

*Lab* – this component meets once per week and is offered 10 times each week. The start time is either 1:00 pm Monday – Friday or 2:00 pm Monday – Friday.

**In order to successfully register for CHEM0330, you must register for all four components.**

***I took the AP/IB exams in Chemistry. Can I place out of CHEM0330?* No/Yes**

Chemistry Advanced Placement Policy - The results of AP exam scores are used solely to guide student placement into introductory chemistry courses. **No Brown credit is awarded for the results of AP exams.** If you score a 4 or 5 on the AP exam in chemistry, you are certainly well prepared to enroll in CHEM0330. (Indeed, students who have taken any advanced placement chemistry in high school are usually amply prepared to enroll in CHEM0330). Students may not place out of CHEM0330 unless they have passed the IB-Higher Level Chemistry exams, the British A-level exam or an equivalent course at another University or College.

***Do you have a chemistry placement exam?* No**

There is not a chemistry placement exam. If you are unsure of which introductory level chemistry course to enroll in, please speak with the instructor.

## **Research**

***Can I do research during my first year?* Yes.**

The Department of Chemistry offers numerous opportunities for students to participate in cutting edge research in all fields of Chemistry. While oftentimes students start research at a later stage, there are students who successfully join research groups in the freshman year. If you are interested you may contact any of the faculty, the concentration advisors (Profs. Basu, Suggs and Stratt), or the Department Chair (Prof. Weber).

You should know that there are numerous funding sources available for carrying out research over the summer months. Since some fellowship applications are due early February, it is helpful to identify a research group during the fall semester.

## Concentrating in Chemistry

*I'm not sure about concentrating in Chemistry. Do I need to start off with CHEM0330 in my first year?* **No.**

It is possible to start the chemistry sequence in your second year and still complete all of the requirements for a degree in 4 years. It makes for a busy three years, but it is feasible. Still, if you are thinking about concentrating in Chemistry, you are encouraged to take CHEM0330 in your first year.

***What is the difference between an A.B. and a Sc.B.?***

The department has identified 7 courses in general, inorganic, organic and physical chemistry that constitute the core for both degrees. The A.B. requires 2 electives in addition to the core, while the Sc.B. requires a year of independent study and several additional electives, including math and physics.

**There are three tracks for the Sc.B degree in Chemistry – the Chemistry track, the Chemical Biology track and the Materials Chemistry track.**

**In addition, there are interdisciplinary concentrations in Chemical Physics (co-advised with the Physics Dept.) and Biochemistry (co-advised with the MCB Dept.)**

### **Concentration Advisors:**

Chemistry (all tracks) - **Amit Basu** – amit\_basu at Brown.edu  
Biochemistry - **J William Suggs** - j\_suggs at Brown.edu  
**Arthur Salomon** - arthur\_salomon at Brown.edu  
**Gerwald Jogl** - gerwald\_joglat Brown.edu  
Chemical Physics - **Richard Strat** – richard\_stratt at Brown.edu

Prospective employers and graduate schools will look at your course record and experience, not simply your degree. For more information about the chemistry concentration, go to: <http://www.chem.brown.edu/undergrad/>

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