

Guidelines for Counselors Advising Chemistry Students at Peralta Colleges

The following guidelines were developed through discussions of Chemistry faculty at the FlexDay meeting on August 18, 2010 and the follow up meeting on September 24, 2010, which were both district-wide discipline meetings representing all four chemistry departments. Approved district-wide on October 12, 2010

Specific Advice

<i>What type of student are you?</i>	<i>You Should Take</i>
Never had Chemistry before	CHEM 30A or 50
Had Chemistry but forgot (3 years ago or more)	CHEM 30A or 50
Biomanufacturing	CHEM 30A (requirement for certificate)
Nursing, Allied Health	CHEM 30A, maybe 30B
Pre-Med, Pre-Dental, Pre-pharmacy	CHEM 1A, 1B, 12A, 12B (Note: 1A requires a strong math background, and critical thinking skills)
Physical Therapy	CHEM 1A, 1B
Physician Assistant (PA)	CHEM 1A, maybe more
General Ed Science course	CHEM 30A or 50 (don't try 1A)

General Advice

1. Students **should not** take 2 chemistry classes at once!

e.g. Do not take CHEM 1A (prereq for 1B) and 1B at the same time
Do not take CHEM 1B (prereq for 12A) and 12A at the same time

Many students attempt to do this to “save” time. It rarely works and usually, in the end, takes more time. Please do not send students to the instructor with this type of request.
2. Many students who attempt three (3) or more science classes with labs have an extremely difficult time in our Chemistry courses and often end up dropping one or more of them to stay afloat.
3. Please don't advise students to ask instructors to bend/break rules for them, such as (a) requesting of faculty to give incompletes instead of non-passing grades when they should simply withdraw or (b) requesting of an instructor that their non-desirable passing grade be lowered to a non-passing grade so that they can try again for a better grade (both of these have happened more than once)
4. Students should finish prerequisite math before entering in a chemistry course. Do not attempt concurrent enrollment in the prerequisite math and chemistry class.

Chemistry Courses

<i>Chemistry class</i>	<i>Description</i>
CHEM 1A	Not considered an introductory chemistry class! First semester of the year-long course General Chemistry, which is 1 st year college chemistry. Heavy workload in math, writing, and critical thinking; strong expectation of previous exposure to chemistry. Currently, 50 percent of students who start 1A either withdraw or receive a non-passing grade because they are underprepared for the rigors of the class. Students entering 1A are expected to take 1B at one of the Peralta colleges.
CHEM 1B	Second semester of General Chemistry. Same workload as 1A, with math, writing, and critical thinking.
CHEM 12A/B	Organic Chemistry. 2 nd year college chemistry (aka sophomore chemistry). Heavy workload in theory and practice of organic chemistry. Laboratory portion requires large time commitment. Should not be attempted without a solid year of General Chemistry. (Chem 30A/B does not fulfill the prerequisite for this class)
CHEM 30A	This is an introductory Chemistry course. Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry (considering renaming the course Introduction to General Chemistry) has an allied health focus. Recommended for students who have never had a chemistry course. Designed for students interested in nursing or dental hygiene – meets most prerequisites for these programs – or as an introductory course in preparation for Chem 1A. CHEM 30A is not open for credit to students who have already completed CHEM 1A. Less math intensive as CHEM 1A/B, though elementary algebra is required. The labs are less intense and do not require as much writing as CHEM 1A/B
CHEM 30B	Introduction to Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, like CHEM 30A, has an allied health focus. Required by some nursing schools, the complete sequence 30A/B provides a comprehensive overview of General, Organic and Biochemistry. Note that CHEM 1A can serve as a prerequisite to 30B, as well as CHEM 30A.

CHEM 50

Beginning Chemistry. Similar topics to CHEM 30A with more math and problem solving emphasis. Preparatory course for CHEM 1A. Recommended for students who would like to refresh their memory, have never had a chemistry course, are preparing for a science degree, or who wish to experience the joy of a college chemistry class.