

To: Students taking **introductory chemistry** classes

From: The Chemistry Department

### **The Chemistry Assessment Test – FAQ**

This note is intended to answer questions you may have about registering for general chemistry I (CHEM115) and II (CHEM116)

**Who should take the Chemistry Assessment Test?** Any student who would like to register for a chemistry class numbered 115 and above who has not previously taken the chemistry placement test.

**What does the test cover?** The test includes material from CHEM115 and some associated algebra.

**What do you need during the test?** Pencil, scrap paper, a calculator, and **a general chemistry text book.** (You can borrow one from the Chemistry Department, or you can use your own.)

**How should you interpret your score?** Students who score less than 75 % often struggle in CHEM 116 unless they take CHEM 115 first. If you have less than 75 % and still would like to take CHEM 116 without 115, you should speak with a member of the Chemistry department about your placement.

**I scored well on the test. Do I have to skip CHEM 115?** Not necessarily, but you should enroll in the class you test into unless you have a compelling reason. **CHEM 115 is college-level chemistry (i.e., CHEM 115 is not remedial chemistry); however, many of the topics are usually covered well in high school chemistry classes.** Students with a strong high school chemistry background are usually bored in CHEM 115.

**I'm a pre-med. Don't I need CHEM 115 and CHEM 116?** Most medical schools require "General (Inorganic)" or "Inorganic Chemistry" rather than simply "General Chemistry," and many schools accept college-certified AP credit (with lab) in place of one semester of general chemistry. Check the requirements of the schools to which you are likely apply. CHEM 115 does not prepare students well for standardized tests. The best preparation for pre-med students would ordinarily include CHEM 116, CHEM 320, CHEM 250, CHEM 252, CHEM 340, and other classes as specified by a particular medical school. CHEM 210 (Analytical Chemistry) is usually not an entrance requirement, but would be great preparation for the quantitative chemistry aspect of the MCAT.