

Chemistry 1A Diagnostic Examination Information

The CSUS Department of Chemistry uses the Toledo Chemistry Placement Examination to evaluate a prospective student's potential for success in a university level first semester general chemistry course.

The 55 minute test consists of 60 multiple-choice questions covering the following general topics:

Compounds/Elements	States of Matter	Laboratory Skills
Reactions of Matter	Structure of Matter	Mathematics
Periodic Properties	Solutions: Titrations	Chemical Dynamics
Equilibrium	Stoichiometry	

The test: The questions are based on content covered in a college preparatory high school chemistry course. Mathematical questions cover ratios, percentages, simple algebraic equations, geometric relationships and interpretation of graphs. The math questions are at the course prerequisite level of high school algebra I and II. Test questions have been checked for statistical and course grade validity.

Preparation: To prepare for the test, the department suggests a review the general chemistry topics listed above using a high school or college general chemistry text. The CSUS library contains numerous chemistry texts in the stacks; the Science librarian can help you locate these if you are new to this campus.

Scoring: A passing score of 35 out of 60 (58 %) or better is required to enroll in chem. 1A.¹ A score of 35 indicates that a student statistically possesses the minimum skills needed to earn a grade of C- in a university level general chemistry course.

Test Times: The diagnostic test is given each semester during the first week of classes in the chem. 1A laboratory sections.² The test will not be administered after the first week. When the lab section has completed the 55 minute test period, the lab instructor will grade the tests and return scores immediately.

Chem. 4: Students that do not achieve a passing score should enroll Chemistry 4, "Chemical Calculations". Chem. 4 is a three unit preparatory course designed to help students develop the needed skills for success in Chemistry 1A.

¹ Students with a score below 35 that have passed chem. 4 with a "C" or better may enter chem. 1A.

² The test will also be offered in during summer orientation and at selected time over the winter recess. Contact the Chemistry department for location and times.