



Department of Natural Sciences

Chemistry Placement Exam Information

The two-semester sequence of College Chemistry at Santa Fe Community College presumes some background information and problem-solving skills. Students who have successfully completed one or two years of high school chemistry should have both the knowledge and the skills to do well in CHM2045. Students who do not have this background should start with Introduction to Chemistry, CHM1025. A placement exam is provided to determine which course will provide you with the best opportunity for success.

The placement exam emphasizes the topics and skills covered in CHM1025. These include:

- Basic atomic theory – the structure of the atom
- Nomenclature – names and formulas of atoms, ions and molecules
- 3-D Visualization – shapes of molecules; atomic-level interpretation
- Lewis Diagrams and VSEPR
- Periodicity – the structure of the periodic table as it relates to the atomic model, Coulomb's Law, comparison of periodic properties
- Basic laws – Definite Composition, Conservation of Mass, Multiple Proportion
- Stoichiometry – composition of compounds, reacting ratios, limiting reagent, % yield
- Mathematics – problem solving, algebraic manipulations, ratio/proportion, graphing, dimensional analysis, error limits (significant figures)

All of these ideas and skills are essential for success in the College Chemistry sequence, and stoichiometry is emphasized even more than the rest.

The placement exam is available in the Assessment Center, G-025. The Center is open for testing from 8AM-6PM, Monday-Thursday, and from 8AM-2PM on Friday. Because you are allowed two hours for the exam, no exam may begin less than two hours before the Center closes.

For more information, contact the Natural Sciences Department at 352-395-5349 or visit Building X, Room 201.

SANTA FE COLLEGE

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