

UC 11328 11S

TO: Simon Bott, Chair
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Richard Scamell
Academic Policies and Procedures Committee

SUBJECT: UC 11302 11S: Chemistry Exams for Credit/Hours

DATE: April 13, 2011

APPROVED APR 20 2011
[Signature]

The Academic Policies and Procedures Committee met on Wednesday, April 13 to consider some proposed modifications to manner in which the Chemistry Departmental Placement is handled. Participating in the discussion were committee members Betty Barr, Martha Dunkelberger, Debbie Hermann-Henry, Peter Lam, Christine LeVeaux, Richard Scamell, Larry Williams, and Louis Williams. Simon Bott attended the meeting as a guest.

Background

Many academic departments offer students an opportunity to earn credit without a grade in specific courses through the credit by examination program. Credit by examination test programs accepted by the University of Houston include:

- Advanced Placement Examinations (AP)
- Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Subject Test
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)¹
- Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES/DSST)²
- University of Houston Departmental Examinations

The following table lists the **current** credit by examination test programs for the Department of Chemistry that make use of Advanced Placement Examinations, the College Level Examination Program, and Department Examinations.

Course	Course No.	Test Program	Test Subject	Minimum Score	Credit Hours
CHEM	1331	AP or CLEP	Chemistry	4	3
CHEM	1111	Lab Departmental Assessment	Chemistry	See Note Below	1
CHEM	1332	Departmental Exam	Chemistry	21	3
CHEM	1112	Lab Departmental Assessment	Chemistry	See Note Below	1
CHEM	1372	AP or CLEP	Chemistry	4	3
CHEM	1117	Lab Departmental Assessment	Chemistry	50	3
CHEM				See Note Below	1

Note: The Lab Departmental Assessment involves a review of the student's Advanced Placement Lab Book.

¹ The University of Houston will grant at least 24 credit hours in appropriate subject areas to an entering freshman student for successful completion of the IB Diploma Program. Students who submit scores of 4 or higher on IB Standard Level (SL) Examination will receive credit if they have also earned the IB diploma. We also offer credit for scores of 4, 5, 6, or 7 on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher-Level (HL) Examinations.

² The DANTES Subject Specialized Test (DSST) program, originally designed and administered only for military personnel, is now available to all interested students. Test registration is available from University Testing Services.

UC 11328 11S

Proposal

UC 11302 11S requests modifications to the listings shown in the previous table for CHEM 1331: Fundamentals of Chemistry I, CHEM 1332: Fundamentals of Chemistry II and CHEM 1372: Fundamental of Chemistry for Engineers.

CHEM 1331: Modifications

The CLEP examination used for CHEM 1331 has proven to be too simple. As a result, fewer than 20 percent of the students who CLEP through CHEM 1331 succeed in CHEM 1332 compared to 78 percent of the students who take CHEM 1331 at the University of Houston. Instead of allowing students to take the CLEP examination, the Department of Chemistry wishes to allow students who (a) took chemistry courses in a different country or (b) took chemistry courses a long time ago or (c) have a combination of high school and industrial experience to use its existing CHEM 1331 department exam.³ The department has tested this exam and found it to be a good measure of knowledge of CHEM 1331 and a predictor of success in CHEM 1332. Success on the CHEM 1331 departmental exam is defined as a score of at least 75 percent.

CHEM 1332: Modifications

UC 11302 11S requests that students meet two requirements to receive course credit for CHEM 1332. First, they must score a 5 on the Advanced Placement Chemistry Subject Test. Second, they must score at least a 75 on the CHEM 1332 departmental exam. The Department's requirement for CHEM 1332 credit is more stringent because of the importance of knowledge of material in CHEM 1332 to success in CHEM 3331: Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry and CHEM 3221: Organic Chemistry Laboratory.

CHEM 1372 Modifications

The CLEP examination is also used for CHEM 1372. UC 11302 requests approval for replacing the CLEP examination with the existing CHEM 1331 departmental exam. As is the case for CHEM 1331, success on the departmental exam is defined as a score of at least 75 percent.

Summary

Approval of the three modifications described above means that the Credit By Examination opportunities offered by the Department of Chemistry will appear as follows (proposed changes are shaded).

Course	Course No.	Test Program	Test Subject	Minimum Score	Credit Hours
CHEM	1331	AP <u>or</u> Departmental Exam	Chemistry Chemistry	4 75 percent	3 3
CHEM	1111	Lab Departmental Assessment	Chemistry	See Note Below	1
CHEM	1332	AP <u>and</u> Departmental Exam	Chemistry Chemistry	5 75 percent	3
CHEM	1112	Lab Departmental Assessment	Chemistry	See Note Below	1
CHEM	1372	AP <u>or</u> Departmental Exam	Chemistry Chemistry	4 75 percent	3 3
CHEM	1117	Lab Departmental Assessment	Chemistry	See Note Below	1

Note: The Lab Departmental Assessment involves a review of the student's Advanced Placement Lab Book.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends approval of UC 11302 11S.

³ The CHEM 1331 departmental exam consists of final examinations that have been previously given in the course. The exam consists of 40 questions and must be completed in 90 minutes.