

Chemistry Challenge Exam



At this time, SMC is conducting virtual testing for the Chemistry Challenge exam.

The Chemistry Challenge Exam is only required of students wishing to enroll directly into Chemistry 11 (General Chemistry 1) who want to bypass Chemistry 10 (Introductory General Chemistry). All other students are not required to take the test.

Please note: Outside Chemistry Challenges are not accepted at SMC. You will need to complete the SMC Chemistry Challenge Exam if you do not meet the Course Prerequisite completed or AP Exam requirements.

Prepare for the Chemistry Challenge Exam?

The best preparation for the test (and for Chemistry 11) is to review your algebra and chemistry skills. You should consider borrowing a Chemistry 10 textbook from the SMC Library to familiarize yourself with general chemistry concepts. You can also review other test preparation guides available at bookstores. You may also want to review the materials found at the following websites:

- Khan Academy Chemistry
-  Chemistry 10 Mock Exam
-  Chemistry 10 Mock Exam-Includes hints for common wrong answers

Do I need an appointment?

Due to COVID 19, the Success and Engagement Center is closed to walk-in testing. Please sign-up online to schedule a remote chem challenge exam. Once we reopen, we will test during normal testing hours. You must bring a government issued photo identification. We reserve the right to request two forms of ID.

Do I have to take the Chemistry Challenge Exam and Challenge Requirements?

You are not required to take the Chemistry Challenge exam to attend SMC. This exam is for any student who wishes to place directly into Chemistry 11 and bypass the Chemistry 10 prerequisite.

Requirements for schedule the challenge exam for Chemistry 11.

- You cannot have attempted SMC's Chemistry 10 course (e.g., has a W or another grade in class) or are currently enrolled in Chemistry 10 can take the Chemistry Challenge exam.

What is the Purpose of the Chemistry Challenge Exam?

The challenge exam serves two purposes:

1. It acquaints students with the skills that are needed to succeed in the introductory chemistry series; and
2. It serves to identify those students who are eligible for placement into Chemistry 11.

For students who do not pass the Chemistry Challenge exam, we recommend you improve your skills by enrolling and completing Chemistry 10 first.

Chemistry Challenge Exam Name and Time Limit?

SMC uses the **California Chemistry Diagnostic Test** to assess students' skills in chemistry. This is a timed, computerized test consisting of 44 questions. Students will be given 50 minutes to complete the test. You will be given scratch paper, pencil, calculator, and the periodic table to use on the Chemistry Exam. **No outside calculators or electronic devices are allowed in the Testing Center.**

What is the content of the Chemistry Challenge Exam?

This exam consists of questions based on high school chemistry and high school mathematics. Topics and skills tested may include:

- **Math:** solving simple algebraic equations; use of proportions and percentages; solving word problems.
 - **Chemistry:** the majority of items are concerned with concepts addressed in Chemistry 10, including elements and their properties, chemical formulas, concentrations of solutions, gases, oxidation numbers, redox reactions and the concepts of acids and bases.
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English, ESL or Math Challenge Exam

Due to the passage of Assembly Bill 705 (AB 705), new students will be placed into math and English classes one of two ways: using high school GPA/coursework information, or Guided Self-Placement.

Challenging Your English, ESL or Math Placement Results

If you are not happy with your English, ESL or math placement and believe it does not accurately reflect your skill level, you may challenge your placement with the English, ESL or Math Department chairperson. Please contact them directly.

English Department is located in Drescher Hall - 3rd Floor

English as a Second Language Department is located in -ESL Building

Math Department is located in the Math Complex

Math Proficiency Test

How can I prepare for the Math Proficiency Assessment?

The Mathematics Proficiency Assessment (MPA) is completed when a student is wishing to obtain an Associate Degree from Santa Monica College who have not completed Math 18, 20, 50, or higher.

To complete the math proficiency, you will need to log into **Corsair Connect** and complete the math placement process for "Liberal Arts and Social Sciences". Once logged in, you can find the **"Placement Tab"** on the top right and corner of your screen. **You must complete the whole placement process and accept your results.** Once you have completed this process, please contact SMC Counseling to confirm your next steps.

Math Proficiency Completion Requirements

- SMC Counseling will confirm the requirements needed to complete the Math Proficiency exam. They will then recommend you contact the Success and Engagement Center to schedule a appointment.

- **Retesting for the Mathematics Proficiency Assessment is limited to one time only after waiting a period of eight (8) weeks after the first test was taken.** Additional retesting will not be provided under any circumstances.
 - Failing the test may necessitate the completion of Math 18, 20, 50 and any relevant prerequisites.
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