

Enrolling in CHM101 via Prerequisite Appeal Petition

Prerequisites are in place to maximize student success and imply the order in which courses should be completed. In some cases, taking courses out of sequence can have very serious negative consequences (especially beyond LTCC).

My experience—as a student and an instructor—is that colleges don't enforce this, but rather leave the responsibility of prerequisites to the student. LTCC, however, has a system by which they do not allow students to enroll in classes without taking the prerequisite course(s). Thus if you want to enroll in CHM101 but have not completed CHM114, you will need to see a counselor for a *Prerequisite and Corequisite Appeal Petition*.

Before you use the prerequisite appeal petition / approach to enroll in CHM101, please consider the following:

1. Over the past few years, about one half of all students who enroll in CHM101 via the prerequisite appeal process do not pass this class.
2. Preliminary data indicate that about 90% of the students who pass the prerequisite course (CHM100 or 114) before enrolling in CHM101 earn passing grades in CHM101.
3. Some groups of students do tend to pass CHM101 without the prerequisite; these students usually fall into the following categories:
 - a. already have a bachelors (or higher) degree
 - b. have completed high school chemistry in the last few years with grades of B or higher (Actually, most California community colleges specify - and accept - high school chemistry [with a grade of B or better, usually] as the prerequisite for college level General Chemistry.)
 - c. have performed well in other college science and/or upper division mathematics courses

Note that these points are broadly applicable to groups of students, and may not correctly predict any one student's likelihood to succeed or fail in CHM101. Consequently, there is no way that I can predict any individual student's chance of success in CHM101 when a student has not previously passed CHM114.

Therefore, if a student - who is well informed of the prerequisite and information provided here - feels that he or she has the background knowledge, motivation, and/or other resources necessary to be successful in CHM101 despite the lack of the prerequisite course, they have my permission to enroll in the class.

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