

## Chemistry Advising Guide 2012-2013

Chemistry brings people and problems together. As chemists, our studies range from the measurement of physical properties to the biological effects of small molecules. Study in chemistry forms a firm foundation for progress in many other disciplines. Students who have studied chemistry at Alma College are currently solving environmental problems, working to provide energy solutions, developing pharmaceuticals, and treating patients, among many other applications and careers.

Recommendations for the first year in a course of study that is headed towards a major in chemistry include:

	Fall Term	Winter Term
Courses in area of Study:	CHM 115	CHM 223
Cognates:	MTH 121 or MTH 112	MTH 122 or MTH 121
First Year Requirements:	FYS 101	ENG 100 or ENG 101 depending upon placement
General Education/Other	Foreign Language Humanities Social Science	BIO 121 Foreign Language Humanities Social Science

Notes:

1. To be successful in CHM 115, placement in at least Precalculus (MTH 112) is required. To be clear, this means that a student would score at a level on the Math Placement test, placing the student in MTH 112 or higher; this does not require that a mathematics course be taken as a corequisite to CHM115.
2. Please recognize that CHM115 is only offered in the Fall term. Delaying starting Chemistry to the second year makes it difficult to finish a Chemistry major in three years.
3. Students should be strongly encouraged to start calculus at some level in the first year allowing a natural progression into physics and physical chemistry. (To help understand the need for preplanning and to understand the sequence of courses, please download and print our four year plan at [http://www.alma.edu/repository/academics/departments/natural\\_sciences/chemistry/ChemistryPathways.pdf](http://www.alma.edu/repository/academics/departments/natural_sciences/chemistry/ChemistryPathways.pdf))
4. For students interested in the Chemistry/Pre-Medical track, it is highly recommended that a well prepared student start with Chemistry, Math and Biology in the first year.
5. Past experience suggests that students who take Biochemistry in the fall of their junior years are more successful on the MCAT (the medical school admissions exam). Keep in mind that Biochemistry requires two years of chemistry as a prerequisite and that the MCAT is typically taken in the spring following the third year.