



FAQs for The OCACS Chemistry Olympiad Exam

Where and when will the exam be held?

Please see the current website information on the Chemistry Olympiad exam.

Can I register myself for this exam?

Yes, up to 20 students may self-register. Self-registration is for students wishing to participate who do not make the four person team from their high school (the preferred method for participation). That registration will open for 17 hours from 7:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on the day following the closing of registration from county high schools.

Do I need a photo ID on the day of the exam?

Yes, IDs will be checked.

Do I need a calculator?

Yes, but only scientific calculators may be used. No programmable or graphing calculators are allowed.

How long is the exam?

The exam is multiple choice, and will last 2 hours maximum.

What is the policy on cell phones?

While we realize that students may need a phone to call for a ride at the end of the exam, ALL CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY during the exam. If a student is found to have a cell phone that is on, s/he will be disqualified.

Can I leave to go to the restroom during the exam?

No, there are no bathroom breaks!

Can this exam be taken more than one time?

Any student may retake the exam, but they must either be nominated by their teacher as a member of their schools four member team, a previous national exam qualifier who competes individually, or self-registered.

Do I have to be a US citizen to take the exam?

To take the first qualifying exam, this is not a requirement. However, a student must have U.S. citizenship OR have legal, permanent resident status (possess a green card) to continue on and participate in the National Chemistry Olympiad should s/he score among the top 11 students in Orange County.

Can I take this exam if I am only a first year student?

No, this exam is meant for advanced students – those in their 2nd year of chemistry in high school.

If I qualify among the top 11 students in Orange County, what is the next step?

If you are a citizen or permanent resident, then you will take the next level exam, which will be given on a Saturday in April from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This second exam will contain both written and laboratory portions.

What happens if there is a tie between 2 or more students from my school, or a tie for 11th place?

A written tiebreaker question designed by university faculty will be used to break all ties.