

## **FAQs for the 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 the Local Section Exam (LSE)?

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 be open for 15 hours from 9:00 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 and my COVID Vaccination card on the day of the exam?

Yes, IDs and vaccination cards will be checked to verify identity and fully vaccinated status.

Is a facemask required?

Yes, each competitor will be required to wear a facemask with no valves. This is a requirement for the ACS United States National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) and for our administration of the LSE.

Do I need a calculator?

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

How long is the LSE exam and what format is it in?

The exam is multiple choice with a written tiebreaker at the end. It 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 the LSE be taken again in a subsequent year following the year it was originally taken?

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

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

Yes, but this exam is primarily meant for advanced students – those who are in their second year of high school chemistry or beyond.

Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to take the exam?

To take the LSE, 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 and participate in the USNCO should s/he score among the top 10 students in Orange County on the LSE.

If I qualify among the top 10 students in Orange County, what is the next step?

If you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, then you will take the USNCO, which will be given on Saturday, April 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The USNCO 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 10<sup>th</sup> place?

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