

Orange County Chemistry Olympiad 2023

There were 165 students from 36 schools participating in the local section exam (LSE) in 2023. It was held on Saturday, March 4, 2022, at the Business Sciences and Technology Innovation Center (BSTIC), Irvine Valley College, Irvine. Eleven Orange County students qualified to compete in the United States National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO). It was held on April 22, 2022, and consisted of 3.25 hours of multiple choice and free response questions along with 1.5 hours of lab work.

The 55th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) was held on July 16-25, 2023. It was hosted virtually by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland.



USNCO Orange County Participants

This year 897 students from 137 local and international sections qualified for and competed in the USNCO in mid-April. Students that finish among the top 150 earn Honors. Six of the eleven students from Orange County achieved this level: Victor Li, Shuoyan Chen, Ryan Nguyen, Nolan Nguyen, Sophia Chen, Feodor Yevtushenko.

Students that finish in the top 50 nationally earn High Honors. One OC student, Yufei Chen, earned this designation. Seven out of the eleven OC students (64%) that took the test from the county scored at the honors level or higher (top 17% in the country). Only two of the 137 local and international sections that had students competing in the USNCO had more students earn Honors or High Honors than Orange County. Additionally, Yufei Chen was among the twenty students invited to the National Study Camp in 2023. However, due to scheduling conflicts, Yufei was not able to attend this year, but he hopes to compete in the Chemistry Olympiad program again in 2024.

The national average on Part One of the USNCO (the only part released) was 24.8 or 41.3% while our Orange County average was 38.5 or 64.2%. The top scorer on this part of the USNCO from OC was Yufei Chen with a score of 53 or 88.3%.