

Orange County American Chemical Society Education Committee

A community engaged in promoting the positive impact of chemistry



March, 2024

Dear High School Chemistry Teachers,

The Orange County Section of the American Chemical Society is once again pleased to invite First Year Chemistry students from almost 100 public and private high schools in Orange County to participate in the 57th annual **ACS First Year Chemistry Examination**. This year's ACS First Year Examination will be on Saturday April 27, 2024. Once again, CSU Fullerton has generously offered the use of their facilities.

Every school that participates has a winner!

This First Year exam is for students who are in their first year of Regular or Honors chemistry. It will be on **April 27, 2024** at *Cal State Fullerton*. In-person registration begins at **8:45am**. The test begins at **9:00 am**.

The following are NOT ALLOWED to take the First Year Exam: Students (a) Enrolled in an AP Chemistry class or at IBHL, (b) Registered for the 2024 AP chemistry test or (c) Take the Chemistry Olympiad LSE exam.

BEFORE the EXAM:

As the coordinator for your school, you are asked to do the following:

- Up to 8 students maximum per school may be registered (top 5 scorers make up the school team)
- Teachers at each high school determine the criteria for selecting their students
- Teachers register their student names all at ONE time **from Friday 4/5/24 noon - Friday 4/19/24 11:59pm**
- No late registration accepted
- No substitutes are allowed; we recommend teachers verify with students that they will attend.
- Register at ocacs.org and click on the **Education** tab at the top of the page. Select the First Year High School Exam link from the drop-down menu. Click the **Registration** button.

The website will accept NO REGISTRATIONS after Friday 4/19/24 at 11:59 pm

- Teachers, please send your school's ACS plaque with a responsible student. We will collect the plaques the day of the exam at the on-site registration desk. *If you have not participated before, we will make a plaque for your school if we get a commitment from you to continue in this program. Please contact Carol Grimes at cgrimes@gwc.ccd.edu.*

DAY OF THE EXAM:

- **NO CALCULATORS** are allowed on this 2-hour test
- Students are required to bring a #2 pencil
- Students should bring a photo ID
- All students are asked to report to the south side of McCarthy Hall at **8:45 am** where the room assignments are posted. Report to the assigned room before 9:00am with your photo ID. Without a photo ID, students will be permitted to take the exam, but will not be recognized as a winner unless a legitimate ID is provided before the end of the exam.
- The exam consists of 80-90 multiple choice questions
- A CSU Fullerton campus map can be found on [their](#) website or on [ours](#). Saturday parking is free in the parking structure at Nutwood and State College Blvd, adjacent to McCarthy Hall.

- This year there are no requirements for vaccination nor masking. Any student who wishes may, of course, wear a mask.
- **Note: This year we will allow cell phones, but they must be turned off during the exam. Students will be disqualified if their cell phone goes off during the test or if they are found accessing their smartphone for information. Smart watches will NOT be allowed at the desks, and students will assume the liability if they wear one to the exam and have to surrender it during the exam. We must be apprised - by the teacher - of medical monitoring by such a device ahead of the exam.**

AFTER THE EXAM:

- We will notify teachers about the results of the exam by email on the afternoon of the exam.
- The following will be invited to the ACS Awards Banquet (*dinner will be paid for*) to be held on Tuesday 5/21/24 at Concordia University, Irvine.
 - ❖ Top student from each school and their teacher
 - ❖ Top six school teams made up of the top 5 students from each school and their teacher(s)
- The Bruce Davis Award will be given to the top scorer(s) in the county. If there is a tie, then multiple winners will be honored.
- The top student from EACH high school will have their name engraved on the school's perpetual plaque. Ties for the top student from a given school will be broken using a supplementary tiebreaker question. The plaques will be presented to the top scorer from each school and their teacher.
- The top six school teams are calculated by the point total (number of questions correct) for the top 5 students from each school. Plaques are given for the top six school teams at the Awards Banquet, and each plaque will include the names of the top 5 student competitors. All five students from the top six schools and their teacher(s) will be invited to the awards dinner as our guests. Note: only six plaques total will be awarded to school teams and only if teams tie for sixth place will a tie breaker be instituted. For example, if two teams tie for third place, plaques will be given to both teams and no sixth place plaque would be given. Sixth place ties will be broken by the following: Schools with more students competing (up to the eight allowed) will finish ahead of those with fewer students competing. The second tiebreaker will be based on the score of the highest scoring student on each team; the school with the highest top scorer wins. If those are also a tie, a third tiebreaker is the score of the second highest scoring student; the school with the highest scoring student wins.

This First Year Chemistry exam is designed to be an *internal* competition *among your school's own students*.

Thus, we strongly discourage sending only one student to either exam. (If only one student takes an exam, they will receive a certificate of participation and be invited to the HS Awards Dinner but will not be acknowledged as your "best" student on the school plaque, unless the student scores above the county average. A teacher may file an appeal with the OCACS Education Committee chair if there is a compelling reason for their only registered student to be recognized as the "best" from your school.)

Please contact Dr. Carol Grimes of the OCACS Education Committee for any support or for more information.

Sincerely,



Dr. Carol Grimes, Chair Education Committee OCACS. cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu