

Orange County American Chemical Society (OCACS) Education Committee

A community engaged in promoting the positive impact of chemistry



January, 2026

Dear Fellow Chemistry Teachers,

Happy New Year! This email is a reminder to you and your students about upcoming DATES for the **Chemistry Olympiad Exam**. A separate email will be sent in February with details about the different first year exam to be held in April.

- **January 31, 2026** is the date by which students need to register at [ACS USNCO Website](#) to ensure they get an email with payment and exam day details. Please remind your students.
- **Saturday, February 28th, 2026 at Irvine Valley College** will be the Chemistry Olympiad Local Section Exam (LSE) .

We currently have about 130 students registered for the exam, and registration is still open. Please have your students with their guardians register for the exam on the [ACS USNCO Website](#).

Students who register using the USNCO website will be contacted via email after February 2nd with specific exam day information and details on how to pay the \$10 test fee. This email will be sent to the parent/guardian email they used when completing the online registration.

After the test, the top 12 students (determined by national ACS) will be invited to take the National Chemistry Olympiad Exam on Saturday, April 18th at UC Irvine.

Schools with many participants are asked to provide teachers to proctor the LSE on Feb 28, 2026. Please contact Stacey Hamamura (edchair2@ocacs.org) if you can help proctor the test. **Your help is crucial to the success of the program.**

Contact Stephanie Nobles or Stacey Hamamura of the OCACS Education Committee for support or for more information.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Nobles and Stacey Hamamura, Co-Chairs Education Committee OCACS
EdChair1@ocacs.org and EdChair2@ocacs.org

Chemistry Olympiad



U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad

Primarily for:

- *IB HL*
- *Second year high school chemistry, and*
- *First year AP chemistry students*

Note: students taking this LSE exam may NOT also take the OCACS first-year exam

Chemistry Olympiad (Local Section Exam, LSE)

- **Feb 28, 2026** at Irvine Valley College
- **TO REGISTER:** With parent/guardian, *students register individually at the National ACS link: [ChemOly Registration](#). Please encourage your students to register by January 31st to ensure they get the email with payment and exam day details.*
- **COST:** Registered students will be contacted after February 2, 2026 with information about the test, along with instructions to pay the \$10 test fee (\$20 late fee based on available space), unless there is a financial burden.
- **HOW MANY:** Unlimited number of students from each school. School team scores are the sum of the top 4 individual scores. Past USNCO national qualifiers are welcome to compete, but they will participate individually, not as part of a school team.
- **FORMAT:** The 110-minute 60 question multiple-choice test is prepared by the National ACS Olympiad Committee. A tiebreaker written by local university chemistry instructors will also be given.