

Orange County American Chemical Society Education Committee

A community engaged in promoting the positive impact of chemistry



March, 2026

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 58th annual **ACS First Year Chemistry Examination**. Once again, CSU Fullerton has generously offered the use of their facilities.

<u>First Year Chemistry Exam</u>
April, 25, 2026 9:00 am at Cal State Fullerton
Online registration window April 1-17

Every school that participates has a winner! They will be honored at our awards banquet. This First Year Chemistry exam is designed to be an **internal** competition *among your school's own students*. We encourage you to send eight students.

*This First Year exam is for students who are in their first year of Regular or Honors chemistry. **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 2026 AP chemistry test or (c) Took the Chemistry Olympiad LSE exam. (d) Anyone who has taken a chemistry class beyond first year high school chemistry.*

BEFORE the EXAM:

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

Determine the criteria for your site	Inform students about the exam format	Register up to 8 students per school	Have one student bring the school plaque
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- Teachers determine the criteria for selecting the students at your site.
- Let students know that the exam consists of 80-90 multiple choice questions to complete in 2 hours, with no calculator. A copy of a past first year exam can be found [here](#) along with the [answer key](#).
- Register up to 8 students maximum per school (top 5 scorers make up the school team)
 - ❖ Teachers register all student names as found on their ID, in **one online submission**
 - ❖ Registration is open from **Wednesday 4/1/26 noon - Friday 4/17/26 11:59pm.**
 - ❖ No late registration accepted
 - ❖ Register at ocacs.org - 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.
 - ❖ No substitutes who aren't registered are allowed; we recommend teachers verify with students that they will attend.

The website will accept NO REGISTRATIONS after Friday 4/17/26 at 11:59 pm

- Give your school's ACS plaque to a responsible student who will bring it to the on-site awards table the day of the exam. *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 Kim Ngo at HS Awards@ocacs.org.*

DAY OF THE EXAM:

BRING	LOCATION	Things NOT to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Photo ID ● #2 pencil ● School plaque 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● South side of McCarthy Hall Cal State Fullerton ● 8:45 am Room assignments posted ● There will be a table to drop off school plaque before taking test ● Wait outside to be escorted to room by ACS volunteer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NO calculators ● NO using phones ● NO using smartwatch ● NO airpods ● NO wearable electronic devices that are connected to the internet.

- ❖ Photo IDs such as Drivers License or School ID will be checked at the exam room door.. 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.
- ❖ A CSU Fullerton campus map can be found on [their](#) website. Saturday parking is free in the parking structure at Nutwood and State College Blvd, adjacent to McCarthy Hall.
- ❖ **Cell phones 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 outside 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:

- Teachers will receive exam results by email.
- The following will be invited to the ACS Awards Banquet (*dinner will be paid for*) to be held on **Tuesday 5/19/26 at 5:45 PM at Orange Coast College.** (details to be sent closer to event)
 - ❖ 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)

Please contact Stephanie Nobles (edchair1@ocacs.org) or Stacey Hamamura (edchair2@ocacs.org) of the OCACS Education Committee for any support or for more information.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Nobles and Stacey Hamamura, Co-chairs Education Committee OCACS

Vision Statement: A community engaged in promoting the positive impact of chemistry.

Mission Statement: Make chemistry exciting, inclusive, and accessible by providing resources, programs, connections, and outreach for the benefit of our communities