

Report on the Actions of The Teaching Circle:
Increasing the Student Success Rate in CHEM 131

In discussing ways to increase student success in CHEM 131, it was decided that we would emphasize increasing the readiness of students who plan on enrolling in CHEM 131.

**What do students need to know to be successful in CHEM 131?
How do we ensure that the students have that knowledge?**

1. What do students know at the end of CHEM 118?
 - a. pre & post-assessment tool administered to all sections of CHEM 118
 - b. chemistry placement test administered to all sections of CHEM 118 at the end of the Winter semester
 - c. scores on the placement test compared to success (grades) in course
2. What do students know at the beginning of CHEM 131?
 - a. chemistry placement test administered to all sections of CHEM 131 at the beginning of the Winter semester
3. What should students know at the beginning of CHEM 131?
 - a. scores on the placement test compared to success (grades) in course
4. A placement test was developed and implemented to determine if the student had sufficient background to enroll in CHEM 131 without having to take the course prerequisites.
5. A written procedure was created on the granting of pre-requisite waivers into CHEM 118 & 131 (as well as all other chemistry courses). This included specifying equivalents to the math pre-requisites.
6. CHEM 118 instructors encouraged to use the Chemistry Placement Test as (part of) their comprehensive final exam.

Once students are enrolled, what can be done to increase their success?

We also looked at ways to increase student success after enrollment in CHEM 118 and CHEM 131. A number of ideas were discussed during the meetings, some of which may be implemented next academic year. This year we hired a chemistry student to tutor students on a walk-in basis in the Gorman building.

Budget

\$350 to Orbro to create the chemistry placement test
\$150 to Heather Dugay to tutor chemistry students

