Fall Registration Starts April 16 in howdy.tamu.edu

Fall class registration will occur in https://howdy.tamu.edu beginning April 16.

Your fall 2009 preregistration start date/time will be posted within the next few days. Please log in to Howdy and click the MyRecord (FALL 09) tab. The “TAMU Preregistration and Holds (Fall 2009)” channel provides your preregistration information.

The online schedule of classes will be available in Howdy beginning April 4.

In the MyRecord (FALL 09) tab, you can:
- Look up online schedule of classes
- View registration tutorials
- View preregistration start date/time
- View registration holds/blocks
Sign up for optional services (parking, sports pass, meal plan, etc.)

Check the preregistration channel after April 13 for holds or blocks that will prevent registration.

To learn how to register for classes and sign up for optional services such as meal plans and sports passes, log in to Howdy, click the MyRecord (FALL 09) tab, and view the Quick Guides in the “Learn About the MyRecord Tab” channel. Check your email for more tips and best practices coming soon!

As you make decisions regarding your fall course load, remember the cost advantage of taking additional credit hours under the university’s undergraduate tuition payment structure for full-time students. For more information, visit: http://finance.tamu.edu/sbs/tuition/flat_rate_tuition.asp

Access to fall semester registration for all currently enrolled (spring 2009) undergraduate students will be discontinued at 5 PM, Friday, May 29 and will be reinstated at 6 AM, Monday, August 3, 2009. Students needing to drop, add, or register between June 1 and July 31 due to extraordinary circumstances must see their academic advisors.

Honors Eligible Students: During early registration, Honors students are limited to registering for 7 hours of honors courses. When open registration begins on Monday, May 4, the limit increases to 9 honors hours. Please see an Honors advisor if you wish to register for more honors hours.

More information regarding the use of Honors Early Registration can be found online, along with a list of fall honors courses, at: http://honors.tamu.edu/reginfo.aspx

Student Rules concerning registration can be found at: http://student-rules.tamu.edu/search/rule1.htm

If your NetID password is going to expire or has expired, visit the following Web site for instructions to update or change: http://gateway.tamu.edu/

Tuition and fee rates for each term may be accessed at: http://sbs.tamu.edu/

If you have questions about the information provided, please contact the Registration Help Desk, Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM, at 979.845.7117.

If you need advice about course selection, please call 979-845-0520 to schedule an appointment with Dr. Tiner or Dr. Gaede.
Special Topics Course: The Chemical Basis of Disease

Dr. Lindahl will be offering a Special Topics course this Fall, CHEM489, The Chemical Basis of Disease. This course will count as an advanced chemistry elective for both majors and minors.

According to Dr. Lindahl, the objective of the course will be to understand, as best as is possible, the chemical mechanisms underpinning diseased conditions. To get “down” to the chemical level, the composition and function of living systems will be surveyed first. Then different types of diseases will be studied, and what is known regarding fundamental chemical aspects will be identified.

The prerequisites for this course are CHEM228 and BICH411. In exceptional cases, you may be allowed to enroll without BICH411 with Dr. Lindahl’s permission.

The class will meet TR at 8—9:15 a.m. in 2122 CHAN.

Undergraduate Research FAQs

How do I find a research advisor? Start with the Department of Chemistry Website (www.chem.tamu.edu/research/). There, you can search alphabetically for individual faculty members you might know through classes or reputation, by division (analytical, biological, inorganic, etc.), or by interest area (catalysis, polymers). Read the research descriptions. Don’t worry too much if you don’t understand every word. When you have found some professors whose research interests you, call to set up an appointment. It is best to talk in person. If they don’t know you, bring a resume that outlines the courses you have taken, your GPR, and long-term career goals. During the meeting, ask if they are willing to take you on as a student. If so, find out their expectations for time commitment, schedule, and meetings. Ask to be introduced to the graduate student or post-doc who will be mentoring you. Make sure you understand what your project will be. This search can be time-consuming, and should start well in advance of registration.

How much credit do I get? The general rule, is that for 1 credit hour of CHEM291 or CHEM491, you should expect to do AT LEAST 45-60 hours of research. Some professors may expect more, including attendance at regularly scheduled group meetings. Most professors expect you to stick to a regular weekly schedule, and not try to make up for lost time during a marathon research session in the last week of the semester. In any case, it is best not to consider research like a regular instructional laboratory. It’s not just a matter of showing up to put in the required amount of time. It’s about working efficiently, being engaged, and contributing ideas. You’ll get more out of research if you put more into it.

What are the course requirements? The syllabus is posted on the undergraduate advising webpage http://www.chem.tamu.edu/academics/undergraduate/research.php. In addition, to the time spent in the laboratory, you are expected to submit an approved research paper in the style of an ACS journal article to the Undergraduate Advising Office before final grades are due. Students who fail to turn in an approved report will receive a grade of incomplete.

How do I register? Each advisor is assigned a section number, which you must get from Ms. Warren. During registration, you will have to type in the section number, and the section will be created for you. (It won’t necessarily be there for you to “click” on.)

CHEM481 to Go to Two Credits

CHEM481, the senior seminar, will be a two-credit course starting in the Fall 2008 semester. This change is in response to student concerns about the increased workload of the course since it became one of our writing intensive courses a few years ago and the difficulty of scheduling student presentations with only once weekly meetings. The course will now meet twice a week, but the assignments will not change too significantly.

For those of you in catalogs requiring CHEM334, the two-credit pchem lab that is no longer offered, the extra hour of seminar can be used together with CHEM326 to substitute for this course.
Student Good News

David Moore (B.A. 2009) got accepted into pharmacy school at the University of Houston, and has gotten interviews to Texas Tech and University of Texas.

We have several Student Research Week winners. Jacob Dean (B.S. 2009) won first place in his taxonomy, Kathy Webb (B.S. 2010) got second place in hers, and Jamie Wheeler (B.S. 2010) won first place in hers.

Speaking of Jacob Dean, he has decided to attend graduate school at Purdue University to do research in molecular spectroscopy.

Erin West (B.S. 2009) has decided to teach. She is currently doing the classes for her Alternative Teaching Certification. She will be a highly qualified teacher by May 11! She plans to be either a high school chemistry teacher or a middle school science teacher.

Dr. Simon North Selected for University-Level Teaching Award

Professor Simon North has been selected to receive the University-level Association of Former Students Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching. According to the AFS website, this award recognizes, encourages, and rewards the superior classroom teachers – the individuals whose command of their respective discipline, teaching methodologies, pervasive caring, communication skills and commitment to the learning process exemplify the meaning of teacher/mentor in its highest sense. This award is designed to distinguish those teachers who maintain high expectations of their students and ensure academic rigor in their courses.

Professor Simon North joined Texas A&M University in 1997 and is currently a Full Professor of Chemistry. His teaching excellence was recognized previously with an AFS College level award in 2004. Professor North has demonstrated an uncommon degree of dedication to the University’s mission of undergraduate teaching. He has taught a total of 9 different courses in the past 11 years and has developed two courses. The first was an environmental chemistry course developed from scratch with the aid of two colleagues, Professors Simanek and Miller. The second course was a total redevelopment of an aged Physical Chemistry laboratory sequence taken by CHEM, BICH, and CHEN majors.

Dr. North’s teaching extends into his research laboratory, where he has been actively engaged in undergraduate research since his arrival at Texas A&M University. Over the course of his 11 years he has worked with a total of 17 TAMU undergraduate students in research program. His work with undergraduates in his research project has resulted in 11 peer-reviewed papers with undergraduates as co-authors, numerous scientific presentations, 2 research presentation awards, and several Fellowships. He is also involved with the University Research Scholars program, where he serves as a research advisor to a Scholar, Jacob Dean.

The Department of Chemistry is fortunate to have many excellent teachers. Previous recipients of this award include Drs. Bergbreiter, Brown, Conway, Gopalakrishna, Hogg, Keeney-Kennicutt, Peck, Singleton, and Watson.

Undergraduate Awards Ceremony Friday, April 17

The Office of Undergraduate Advising will be hosting an undergraduate awards ceremony on Friday, April 17 at 4 p.m. in 2104 CHAN.

We will be handing out awards for academic achievement in the 2008-2009 academic year, as well as recognizing our 2008-9 Chemistry Department scholarship recipients.

All are welcome to join us for some cookies and punch.
Calling All December 2003—August 2004 Graduates

In the name of continually evaluating and improving our program, we are seeking input from our former students. Specifically, we would like to touch base with those of you who graduated 5 years ago. Having gone on to further schooling or taken on your first jobs, you may now be in a better position to talk about the strengths and weaknesses of your academic preparation than you were as a squeaky new graduate. Please drop us a line at advising@mail.chem.tamu.edu, or contact us at our individual email (hgaede@mail.chem.tamu.edu, tiner@mail.chem.tamu.edu, or warren@mail.chem.tamu.edu.) We would like to collect your current contact information and information about your employment. We will be sending out short surveys once we have managed to track down most of you. (Probably toward the end of May.) We would very much appreciate it if you could complete these surveys when you receive them. Thanks in advance for your help!

Time for Seniors to Start Composing Autobiographies

Seniors who will be graduating in May should start working on autobiographies to be included in the issue of Orbitals following graduation.

These autobiographies should be 150-200 words and tell us where you came from, what you did while you were here, and where you’re going. See the January 2009 issue of Orbitals (http://www.chem.tamu.edu/academics/undergraduate/orbitals/2009_01_20.pdf) for examples of autobiographies from our December graduates.

When these are ready, please email them to Dr. Gaede at hgaede@mail.chem.tamu.edu. I will be collecting them through the end of the semester.

Important Dates

- April 6, Q-Drop Deadline
- April 10, Reading Day
- April 16-May 1, Preregistration for Fall Semester
- April 17, Chemistry Undergraduate Awards Banquet
- April 21, Muster
- May 5, Last Day of Classes
- May 8, 11-13, Finals
- May 16, Commencement

Seeking Teacher Certification?

There are several scholarships available for students planning to teach high school chemistry.

We will be awarding those scholarships in the coming months and need a complete list of students to consider.

Please take a moment to send us a confirming email if you intend to teach high school chemistry.