

The Emory Department of Chemistry has recently re-designed the undergraduate chemistry curriculum. While we are proud and excited about these innovations, we acknowledge that it is inconvenient for some transfer students. Most university core chemistry curricula involve 1 year of general chemistry followed by 1 year of organic chemistry. Our “Chemistry Unbound” core courses, Chem 150 (Structure and Properties), Chem 202 (Principles of Reactivity), Chem 203 (Advanced Reactivity) and Chem 204 (Macromolecules) do not map neatly onto topics covered in conventional general and organic chemistry courses. They are designed, rather, to introduce a wider variety of chemistry content earlier in curriculum and to build concepts and skills in a very deliberate way.

The challenge for transfer students is that having completed a year (2 courses) of general chemistry will not prepare students to take Chem 203, our third core course. This is because Chem 203 builds on concepts and skills that are conventionally part of the organic chemistry curriculum, but which we introduce in Chem 150 and develop throughout Chem 202. To assist transfer students in understanding their best path forward, below are a couple of typical scenarios followed by guidance on what a student in that situation should do.

1.) What can you do if you are transferring after taking 1 year of general chemistry?

If you are planning to major in chemistry, you may consult with the chemistry department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies about joining the limited-enrollment 1st year sequence (starting with 202z and 202zL), which is designed for first-year students entering with AP or IB credit in chemistry.

Chem major transferring after 1 year of general chemistry:

1st year at Emory : Fall: Chem 202z + 202zL Spring: Chem 203z and Chem 203zL

2nd year at Emory: Chem 204/204L and Chem 205/205L (offered both semesters),
Chem 300L in spring, possibly other electives

If you are not a chemistry major (for instance, taking chemistry for pre-health preparation), then you should start with Chem 202 either in the fall or the spring. Since 202L is not offered in the fall, a fall start means having the lab courses lag behind the lecture courses, which is not ideal but is definitely workable:

1st year at Emory : Fall: Chem 202 Spring: Chem 203 and Chem 202L

2nd year at Emory: Fall: Chem 204 and 203L Spring: Chem 204L

Another option is just to wait until spring to start Chem 202; if you would like review then taking Chem 150 in the fall is also an option.

1st year at Emory : Fall: Chem 150 or no chemistry Spring: Chem 202 and Chem 202L

2nd year at Emory: Fall: Chem 203 and 203L Spring: Chem 203 and 203L

When starting with Chem 202 after taking general chemistry elsewhere, you will be provided with material for self-study on a few topics covered in Chem 150 that you might not have seen before.

If you are able to take summer courses at the end of your first year at Emory, we generally offer 150 and 203 (with labs) in the first summer session, and 202 and 204 (with labs) in the second summer session. These add some further options.

You should consult with your major or pre-professional advisors about which chemistry classes you will need. Finally, note that the second semester of general chemistry from your previous institution will usually transfer as Chem 142. This will be visible on your transcript, and may count towards fulfilling chemistry requirements for professional school admissions, even though it does not serve as a prerequisite for later chemistry classes at Emory.

2.) What can you do if you are transferring after taking 1 year of organic chemistry?

If you are transferring after taking 1 year of organic chemistry, and wish to continue in chemistry coursework, you should consider taking Chem 204 (Macromolecules) and/or Chem 205 (Light and Matter) as your next courses. These are offered both semesters along with their labs.