



Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Summer 2026 New Student Advising

Welcome to Orientation Advising!

Goals of today's advising session:

- Plan your classes for Fall 2026
- Know how to contact an advisor for future assistance

We will also cover:

- Some policy information
- Resources for academic planning

Majors and Concentrations

BS in Chemistry

- No concentration (ACS approved)

Concentrations:

- Analytical Chemistry
- Biochemistry
- Environmental Chemistry
- Materials Chemistry

BA in Chemistry

- No Concentration
- Concentration in Biochemistry

First-Year Student Schedule Planning

Semester 1 (Fall 2026):

- CHEM 211 & 213: General Chemistry I and Lab (4 credits)
- MATH 113*: Calculus I (4 credits) *[or what you can take based on your math placement score (MATH 008: Algebra. MATH 105: Precalculus)]
- Mason Core Course (3 credits) [typically ENGH 101]
- Mason Core Course (3 credits) [typically HIST 125 or COMM]

Semester 2 (Spring 2027):

- CHEM 212 & 214: General Chemistry II and Lab (4 credits)
- MATH 114*: Calculus II (4 credits) *[or what you can take next based on what you took in the fall.]
- BIOL 213 (4 credits)
- Mason Core Course (3 credits) [typically COMM or Lit or HIST requirement]

Second-Year Student Schedule Planning

Semester 3:

- CHEM 313 & 315: Organic I and Lab (5 credits)
- MATH 213*: Calc III (3 credits) *[if calc III is not required for your concentration, take a mason core]
- PHYS* I and Lab (4 credits) *[College or University depending on degree concentration]
- Mason Core Course (3 credits)

Semester 4:

- CHEM 314 & 318: Organic II and Lab (5 credits)
- CHEM 321*: Quantitative Analysis (4 credits) *[could alternatively take in Fall 27]
- PHYS* II and Lab (4 credits) *[College or University depending on degree concentration]
- Mason Core Course (3 credits)

Transfer Student Schedule Planning

- Transfer students may come in with a mix of credits
- You will need to carefully look at the transfer credits GMU has awarded you, and the requirements for the degree program you are pursuing, to determine which courses you should begin with.
- Not all courses are offered every semester and upper level courses have prerequisites.
- Today we will discuss which courses you will take next semester. You should then make a semester by semester plan based on your remaining requirements and have an advisor check it.
- If you have taken more credits than can be transferred to Mason, you may need to contact credeval@gmu.edu to reassign courses

CHEM Course Prerequisites

- CHEM 211-214 (8) are prerequisites to all other undergraduate CHEM courses numbered 301 or above.
- All CHEM courses that are **pre-requisites** to other CHEM courses require a **grade of C or better**.
- Course prerequisites are listed in the catalog (catalog.gmu.edu)
- If you deviate from the suggested schedule, you will need to carefully check the order you need to fulfill prerequisites and when they're offered.

Undergraduate CHEM Course Offering Schedule

Undergraduate Course Offerings

Courses taught only once a year are shown in bold underline.

Fall 211-213, 212-214, 313, 314, 315, 318, 321, **331**, 336, **422**, 425
(odd), **427** (even), **441**, **446**, 463, 465, 490

Spring 211-213, 212-214, 313, 314, 315, 318, 321, **332**, 336, **337**, **413** (odd), **423**, **445**,
463, **464**, 465, **467** (odd), **468**(even), 490

Summer 211-213, 212-214, 313, 314, 315, 318, 463/Biol 483

Individualized sections 355, 451, 452, 455, 456 are available every semester.

CHEM 458/GEOL 458 is offered every 4th semester.

<https://science.gmu.edu/academics/departments-units/chemistry-and-biochemistry/advising>

Mason Core Requirements

- Written Communication (ENGH 101)
- Oral Communication (COMM 101)
- Quantitative Reasoning (fulfilled by MATH 113)
- Information Technology and Computing (choose from a list of qualifying courses- see catalog)
- Arts (choose from a list of qualifying courses- see catalog)
- Global History (**HIST 125**)
- Global Contexts (choose from a list of qualifying courses- see catalog)
- Literature (choose from a list of qualifying courses- see catalog)
- Natural Science (fulfilled by CHEM major courses)
- Social/Behavioral Science (choose from a list of qualifying courses- see catalog)
- Written Communication Upper Level (ENG 302)
- Writing Intensive (Fulfilled by CHEM 336 or CHEM 465)
- Apex CHEM 460 or (choose from a list of qualifying courses- see catalog)

Mason Degree Audit aka Stellic

You should be checking Stellic at least once a semester!

To access Mason Degree Audit:

1. Log into Patriot Web (<https://patriotweb.gmu.edu>), then click on the Student Services tab or link
 2. From the Student Services menu, click on Student Profile
 3. In the left-hand navigation pane of the Student Profile, select Mason Degree Audit
- Help resources and short training videos, as well as a link to screenshots for logging into the Mason Degree Audit, can be found on the Registrar's website at: <https://registrar.gmu.edu/degreeaudit/>
 - It's like an interactive degree requirements checklist

Math Placement Test

All chem majors need to take Calc 1: Math 113 (1 semester) **or** Math 123/124 (2 semesters).

The math placement test is required* to register for Calc 1! *[Unless you have transfer credit with a grade of C or higher, or AP/IB/credit by exam for a prerequisite]

What if I don't place into Math 113 or Math 123?

- If you place into precalc: Math 105, you can take it. If you earn a C or higher you can then take Math 113 or Math 123 after.
- If you place into Math 008, you will need to complete and pass that before moving on to precalc, and then eventually calc 1.
- You can practice/study and try retaking the placement test (see link below for more information)

*Please note that placing into a math lower than Calc 1 and/or taking the 2 semester Calc sequence 123/124 could extend your graduation timeline. It is recommended to meet with an advisor in the fall semester to discuss your options if this applies to you.

All questions about the test and testing center should be directed to the mathematical science testing center (link below)

<https://science.gmu.edu/academics/departments-units/mathematical-sciences/mathematical-sciences-testing-center>

Go back to the main room to register for classes!

First year students:

- CHEM 211 & 213: General Chemistry I and Lab (4 credits)
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- Mason Core Course (3 credits) [typically ENGH 101]
- Mason Core Course (3 credits) [typically HIST 125 or COMM]

Transfer students:

- What was individually decided based on your transfer credits.

Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry



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