Welcome

On behalf of the faculty and staff, congratulations on your acceptance to the chemistry department of The College of New Jersey!

We believe that the programs in the School of Science offer an excellent combination of academic strength, flexibility, and practical experience. We are looking forward to meeting you and to your becoming a part of our TCNJ community as you help make your future goals a reality. As a new student you will be working with an exceptional faculty ready to inspire and challenge you to do your very best work.

It will be an exciting summer at TCNJ and especially in our own department, and we look forward to meeting you when you arrive on campus in the summer for orientation.

Advising Information

You will be assigned an advisor – a faculty member from our department – who will meet with you regularly throughout your time at TCNJ. You will have opportunities to discuss your course work, independent studies that you might want to pursue, career paths, or other academic questions that arise prior to, during, or subsequent to registration each semester. It is important to meet with your faculty advisor each semester to assure that you are on the right track and completing all necessary courses for graduation.

Until your advisor is assigned, please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions at all. You can reach me at sen@tcnj.edu or at 609-771-2434.

Your First Semester

On the back of this letter we have compiled an “Understanding Your First Semester Sequence” document that provides a clear and ordered description of the recommended courses for your first semester and detailed information regarding the liberal learning program, including instructions for selecting your First Seminar class (FSP).

As department chair, I’m excited to have you join our community. Let’s make this a great year!

Stephanie E. Sen  
Professor and Chair  
P) 609-771-2434  
E) sen@tcnj.edu

http://chemistry.pages.tcnj.edu/
UNDERSTANDING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER SEQUENCE

Every major has a guideline for its first semester students: the **First Semester Sequence.** Within this sequence of courses, you will see Major Requirements (for which you will be pre-registered), First Seminar Program (FSP), and Interdisciplinary Studies requirements. Please reference this First Semester Sequence while completing your online First Semester Worksheet.

### Chemistry

**Major Requirements**

*All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for Major Requirement courses*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHE 99 – Chemistry Seminar</td>
<td>0 unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHE 201 – General Chemistry 1*</td>
<td>1 unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY 201 – General Physics 1*</td>
<td>1 unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 127 – Calculus A *</td>
<td>1 unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CHE 201, PHY 201 and MAT 127 all require a math SAT score of 650 or higher; otherwise you must enroll in MAT 96 – Precalculus (0 unit) in place of MAT 127, take and pass a pre-calculus course (at TCNJ or another institution of higher education) prior to fall enrollment, or demonstrate proficiency through a standardized examination. See the Math/Stat Dept. web page for details.*

Although a Chemistry AP score of 5 allows you to obtain credit for both CHE 201 and CHE 202, we recommend that you enroll in either CHE 202 or HON 202. Although a Chemistry AP score of 4 allows you to obtain credit for CHE 201, we recommend that you enroll in either CHE 201 or HON 201.

**First Seminar Program (FSP)**

*Select six from the following recommended FSPs (1 unit):*

Any FSP course that interests you is acceptable. We advise you to choose courses outside of the sciences so that your first semester is intellectually balanced.

**Second Language (if you have credit for Calculus or Physics)**

All Chemistry Majors require 2nd language proficiency to the 103 level. Information about language placement criteria is available at [http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu](http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu). No placement exam is needed to take a 101 or 151 level course in a language not previously studied.

**Or Liberal Learning (if you have credit for Calculus or Physics)**

Select six Liberal Learning courses from the following categories on your online First Semester Worksheet:

- Behavioral, Social, Cultural Perspectives
- Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts
- World Views and Ways of Knowing
- Social Change in Historical Perspectives
- And/or any course satisfying at least one civic responsibility category.

See [http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu](http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu) for additional information.

**Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) Requirement**

*All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDS 102 – Information Literacy Proficiency</td>
<td>0 unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDS 103 – Community Engaged Learning</td>
<td>0 unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRP 99 – Summer Reading Program</td>
<td>0 unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A “full” load is four course units.

**Major Requirements:** The Major Requirements section provides a list of the specific courses you are required to take during your first semester. You will be preregistered for them. To take chemistry you must be calculus ready or otherwise take MAT 096, Precalculus (0 unit). To take physics you must take calculus concurrently.

**First Seminar Program (FSP):** The FSP is the cornerstone of the Liberal Learning Program. Please select six FSP courses from the categories on the left, and indicate them on your online First Semester Worksheet. View all sections on the First Seminar Program website: [http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu](http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu). Please bear in mind that we will only see them in alphabetical order, not your order of preference, and that we will make every effort to enroll you in one of the six.

**Interdisciplinary Studies:** **IDS 102** is a required, on-line, non-credit course administered by the library staff satisfying the information literacy component of the Liberal Learning Program. You should meet this proficiency during your first semester. **IDS 103** is our way of keeping track of your community engaged learning requirement. As above, you receive no specific academic credit for it, but you should complete it by the end of your first year.

**Second Language:** If one of your major requirements has been satisfied by an AP course, then you should take one language course. If you place out of a language altogether, then you should take a liberal learning course.

**Liberal Learning:** Unless you earn credit from AP scores in one of the required courses in your First Semester Sequence, or are exempt from the Second Language Proficiency requirement, you will not be taking additional liberal learning courses during your first semester. However, you will eventually need to complete the liberal learning program as part of your graduation requirements. Please visit [http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu](http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu) and [http://firstreg.pages.tcnj.edu/liberal-learning](http://firstreg.pages.tcnj.edu/liberal-learning) to learn more about the different Liberal Learning Program paths.

**Summer Reading Program (SRP 99):** This required, non-credited program welcomes you to TCNJ’s intellectual community by asking you to critically read a thought-provoking book and share your insights about the book in small group discussions with your peers led by a facilitator during Welcome Week.