

Each term, a growing number of students register for CH221 who are not quite ready for the pace or challenge of college level chemistry. At MHCC, we offer CH150, Basic Chem., designed to help students perform better in CH221 and reach their ultimate academic goals successfully. Are you a candidate for CH221 or CH150?

Students who do succeed in CH221 have at least 2 or more of these qualities:

- 1) Physical science background (1-2 years of high school or college chemistry and/or physics with an A or solid B average)
- 2) Math skills (solid A/B average; Mth111 is highly recommended)
- 3) Strong college study skills, especially prior experience in college science or math classes.

What could CH150 do for me?

- 1) Chemistry skills (What exactly do all those symbols on that chart mean (aka, the periodic table of elements)? How do you name $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_2)_3$? What do avocados have to do with moles?)
- 2) Math skills needed to succeed in college physical science.
- 3) Analytical skills and laboratory techniques to succeed in college science.

If you have questions, please contact your chemistry professor.

CH221 is offered at MHCC fall, winter, and spring terms. Students opting to take CH150 in the fall can still finish the CH221-223 sequence during this academic year by taking CH 223 in the summer.

Comments from former CH151/221 Students:

Lilly's thoughts: think it is important that student success is kept in mind; college level chemistry is not easy and the 151 prep class was not only valuable, but ensured my personal success in 221. I had no background in chemistry, and I am so grateful I dropped the 221 class and took 151. I took bad advice from an advisor the first time I signed up for 221. In 151, I learned the basics of chemistry so that I could successfully complete 221 without screaming (or cursing) too much. 221 added onto the information learned in 151 and went deeper into the concepts; 151 was an imperative foundation before 221. I watched several classmates think they could swing taking 221 with minimal chemistry background; they ended up dropping or failing out of the class because there is so much information as well as learning lab protocol that can get really overwhelming and unmanageable without the right foundation.

Destiny's reflection: CH151 gave me a foundation that was invaluable for the 200 level series, allowing me to succeed. Chemistry is a fascinating subject, but it requires a lot of hard work; so give yourself a leg up and take CH151! Also, you will become more enlightened sitting in the front row, plus always good juju to bring homemade chocolate chip cookies to share with your professor and classmates☺.

Helen's hints: I took CH104 prior to taking the 200 level sequence. 104 helped prepare me for topics covered in all 3 terms of gen chem. 200 level chemistry moves at a fast pace and the info you learn during the first term is needed to succeed in the 2nd and 3rd term. Falling behind or failing to understand a topic studied in 221 will dramatically lower your ability to succeed in successive terms. 104 or 151 will give you a solid base of understanding and will provide a smoother transition into 200 level college chemistry. It also introduces good study habits and proper lab procedures that will facilitate your college science lab experience. I highly recommend taking one of the 100 level chem. classes to all students considering ch221.

Travis's ponderings: When I saw I needed part of the chem 200 series for engineering at PSU, I wasn't sure if I should take ch151 first or start right off with ch221. Though I feel I would have done alright in 221, I am very glad I took 151 first. CH151 provided a good overview of 221 and 222 making those classes far easier. It helped introduce terms and methods so I could focus more on the material in the 200 series. Since I took the entire series I am quite certain the extra repetition helped in the comprehensive ch223 final.

Gemna Speaks Up: Taking chem 151 before 200 level chem was the wisest decision I could have made. It built a solid foundation that I could easily work off of in 221, 222, and 223. Not only were the classes/material easier to grasp by taking 151 first, but also the relationships I made in 151 made a huge difference as well. Going into 200 level chem with people I knew I worked well with was a huge help.

JusTy's musings: CH151 made my life way easier when it came time for CH221. When entering CH221 there is a general assumption that students have taken some form of chemistry. A review of key topics is given, but being a student who hadn't taken high school chemistry in 7 years, I would have been lost without 151. There is also a good amount of mathematical concepts that are needed to succeed in 200 level chemistry that 151 covers. Could I have made it without 151? Most likely, but the knowledge foundation provided in 151 probably boosted my grade by one letter.