



## 2021 Chemistry Olympiad

### *A Competition for Talented High School Chemistry Students*

#### **2021 Chemistry Olympiad Competition**

The Chicago Section of the ACS is pleased to announce its search for nominees to compete for national positions on the U.S. Team that will enter the International Chemistry Olympiad competition. This is a highly competitive selection process. If you feel that you have students of outstanding abilities in chemistry, please nominate them to compete in the Local Olympiad exam.

**In light of the continued uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic both the Local Section and National Exams will be offered virtually in 2021.**

**Local Chemistry Olympiad Exam: Saturday, March 27, 2021 from 2:00 PM to 3:50 PM CT**

Students requiring religious accommodations or who have other reasons precluding their participation in the main exam may request to take the exam from 2:00 PM – 3:50 PM CT on Sunday, March 28, 2021.

To request this, students must email their coordinator [acs.chicago.olympiad@gmail.com](mailto:acs.chicago.olympiad@gmail.com) and [USNCO@acs.org](mailto:USNCO@acs.org).

#### **Exam Administration**

The ACS Learning Center (<https://learning.acs.org/course/index.php>) is the platform that will be used for the digital LSE (Local Section Exam). Anyone, including and especially teachers, is invited to access the USNCO Course in the ACS Learning Center. At the moment, little content is available, but students must register for the site in order to take the exam.

We will endeavor to make the LSE accessible to screen readers – please inform visually impaired students who may be interested in participating. An accessible periodic table that can be used for the exam, or for any other educational purpose, can be accessed here:

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatischemistry/periodictable.html>

#### **Nominating students**

As a practical matter, we are **requiring** teachers, or their proxy, to proctor the students that they nominate. Proctoring can be done remotely or in-person as allowed by local laws. For advice on how to proctor remotely using Zoom, contact [USNCO@acs.org](mailto:USNCO@acs.org).

In order to properly manage information in the ACS Learning Center (hosted by Moodle), where we will host the Local Section Exam and Part 1 of the National Exam, we will need to know who will be taking the exam earlier than usual. The new key date is that **all students need to be registered by January 29**.

**Please go to [http://chicagoacs.org/content.php?page=Chemistry\\_Olympiad](http://chicagoacs.org/content.php?page=Chemistry_Olympiad) to submit names of up to eight students per AP teacher. Registration is open through January 29.**

## Additional Guidance

A Zoom meeting will be held introducing students, teachers, and coordinators to a USNCO course within the ACS Learning Center which will also serve as a learning resource throughout 2021. This will be scheduled for **February 19, 2021**. Instructions to access the course page (but not the exams) will be distributed early 2021.

### NEW – ACS Learning Center Course

A course is being built within the ACS Learning Center for the USNCO. In addition to hosting the 2021 digital multiple-choice exams, it will also link to useful resources for coordinators, teachers, and students. Anyone will be invited to enroll in the course to peruse the resources, but only students nominated by their Local Sections may take the exams. A practice exam will be included so students, teachers, and coordinators can familiarize themselves with the format.

Coordinators will be provided with instructions to have students “enroll” in the course as part of their Local Section Cohort, and will then be able to view their students’ scores.

This course will be released in January 2021.

## Rules for Participation in the 2021 Chemistry Olympiad Competition

1. Students must be U.S. citizens or legal, permanent residents of the United States (green card holders) to take the U.S. national examination.
2. High school students who will graduate no earlier than spring of a year in which they participate in the competition are eligible.
3. Students must be younger than 20 years of age.
4. Up to **eight** students may be nominated to take the **local** exam from each teacher. No more than **two** students per high school may take the **national** exam. In the case of magnet programs or split enrollment, a student’s school is defined as the high school where the student takes science class(es).
5. Eligible students who have previously attended the study camp automatically qualify for the national exam and do not count against the limit on the number of eligible students from their local section or school.
6. Winners of gold medals at the International Chemistry Olympiad are not eligible to participate in subsequent International Chemistry Olympiad competitions or study camps.
7. Students who have taken advanced placement courses in chemistry are eligible.
8. A student may participate only in the competition of the section in which the student's high school is located. If the section is not participating, the USNCO national office will assign the student to a section.
9. A student who participates in the Physics Olympiad study camp, the Mathematics Olympiad study camp, or the Biology Olympiad study camp is not eligible to participate in the Chemistry Olympiad study camp during the same summer.
10. **Only non-programmable calculators are to be used on the national exam and on the ACS local section exam. The use of a programmable calculator, cell phone, or any other device that can access the Internet or make copies or photographs during the exam is grounds for disqualification.**

To view **Local and National Exams**, past winners, and other general information about the Chemistry Olympiad, see <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/highschool/olympiad.html>.