

The UT Chemistry Placement Exam

Beginning Fall 2011, the College of Natural Sciences is requiring a 70% or higher on the UT Chemistry Placement Exam.

The ALEKS Chemistry score of 70% is now required of ALL students taking CH301.

Deadline: 5th class day of semester

For any student with a non-CNS major, two options exist:

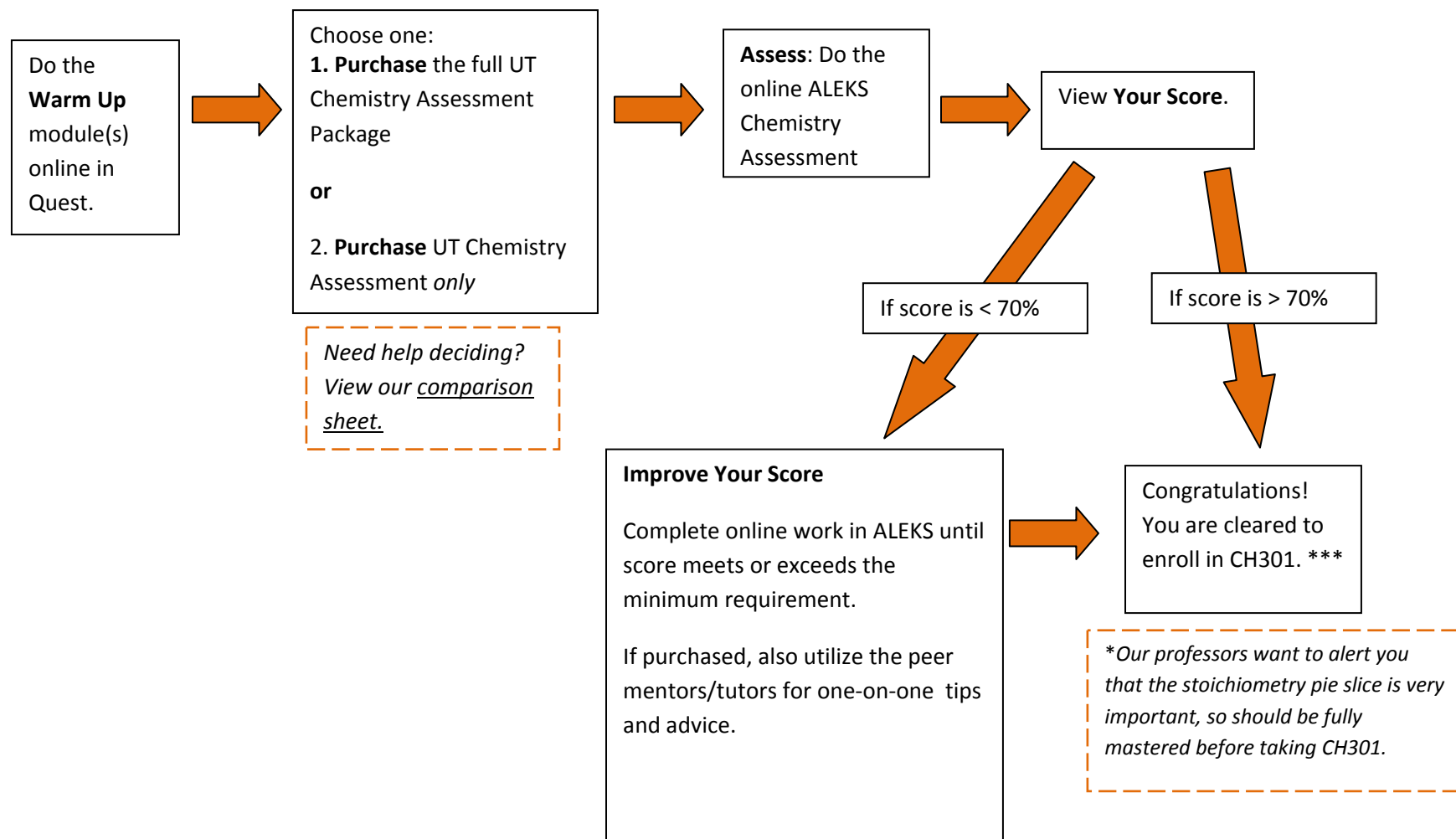
1. Option 1: Purchase ALEKS Assessment only. Gives access to the ALEKS exam and tutorials, but without the additional support provided in Option 2. Cost: \$25
2. Option 2: Purchase the UT Chemistry Assessment package. Provides ALEKS exam and tutorials, plus assigned mentor/tutor for individualized help, etc. Cost: \$50

See enclosed for a side by side comparison of these two options.

UT Chemistry Placement:












Beginning Fall 2011, the UT Chemistry Placement exam and score of at least 70% is **required** for **every** student enrolled in CH301. This was formerly known as the ALEKS Chemistry exam. Students must pay for and do the exam. If their score is not high enough, they can then work their way up to the required score by answering questions correctly in ALEKS. **The deadline for attaining 70% is the 5th class day of the semester.**

NOTE: This flow chart applies only to non-CNS majors.



Side-by-Side Comparison of Package Options

The following table summarizes the services each package provides to the student.

Service	Assessment Only	Full Package
UT Assessment in ALEKS		
Six (6) weeks in ALEKS Learning Mode		
ALEKS Technical Support		
Tutorials, videos, and practice questions in Quest		
Real-person tutor via Internet		
Real-person mentor to answer questions about math or chemistry, UT, or Austin area (upperclassman student at UT)		
Facebook group for networking with other students currently completing ALEKS		

Selecting the package that's best for you is a matter of choice. We anticipate that the upgraded H³Chemistry package is best suited for the student who:

- Would like to have a real person tutor accessible by email, Skype, Facebook, or AdobeConnect
- Appreciates encouraging emails from people who care
- Wants to connect with other students
- Has questions or concerns about the upcoming semester and would like to chat with an upperclassman currently attending UT Austin

With either package, students receive:

- A sneak peek at the types of questions one might see in math or chemistry classes at UT
- Multiple options to review a topic: text, video, practice (in ALEKS and in Quest)

The students will see information on the CNS website similar to that provided below.

More Information About the UT Chemistry Assessment

Who must take the UT Chemistry Assessment?

All students wishing to enroll in CH301 must complete the assessment.

- Students new to UT, regardless of major.
- Continuing students at UT, regardless of major.

Why must I take the UT Chemistry Assessment?

The UT Chemistry Assessment is a more effective assessment tool than the SAT, AP, or CLEP tests.

In addition, the UT Chemistry Assessment allows students to enter CH301 with a strong knowledge base, regardless of how long it's been since the student's last chemistry course.

What chemistry topics are on the UT Chemistry Assessment?

The assessment covers a variety of high school-level chemistry topics, each of which is considered prior knowledge by our instructors. It also allows an introduction into quantum topics—the first topic in most CH301 classes.

What is the Access Procedure?

The assessment is to be completed via Internet connection at a place and time that is convenient for you. To access the assessment, you will need:

- Your UTEID and password.
- A computer with a web browser and internet connection. Supported browsers are:
 - Windows: Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher, Firefox 3 or higher, Chrome 4 or higher
 - Macintosh OS 10.3 or higher: Safari 3 or higher, Firefox 3 or higher

Is ALEKS a timed test?

ALEKS gives you the time you need in order to complete the assessment (20-35 questions). However, it does take into account the time it takes for you to answer each question when determining (the ease or difficulty of) your next question and your score.

Please note that you do not need to take the entire assessment in one sitting: you may complete a few problems then log out, take a break, and return to the assessment at a later time.

How does ALEKS Chemistry work?

ALEKS Chemistry has two primary “modes”: Assessment Mode and Learning Mode.

- Upon first signing in, you engage Assessment mode. This is the initial exam that determines how much you already know and remember about chemistry. The better you do, the harder it gets (and the higher your end score).

- The Learning Mode is activated after you take the initial assessment. It includes practice problems and tutorials. In learning mode you will see a “pie” with clickable links. When you select a topic to study, you will be given a practice problem. Answering problems correctly raises your ALEKS Chemistry score. Answering a problem incorrectly reveals the answer with a step-by-step solution to the problem and may temporarily lower your score until you get a similar question correct. Working in Learning Mode is another way to earn the 70% recommended for enrollment in CH301.

What does ALEKS do for me?

Results vary among students, but for the majority of students ALEKS provides a way to ensure your chemistry background is at an appropriate level for the topics that UT Chemistry instructors assume you already know. The freshman chemistry courses at UT are challenging and build from these fundamental topics. ALEKS provides (1) identification on which topics need more review and (2) practice problems that focus on your weaker areas.

What is the deadline?

The ALEKS Chemistry initial assessment *should* be purchased and completed at least five (5) weeks before the semester begins, to allow ample time to work toward the required score. The minimum required score of 70% **must** be met by the 5th class day of the semester or else you will be dropped from CH301.