

# CHEM 1012 ESSENTIAL CHEMISTRY

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 301451

**Coordinator** Narsimha Reddy ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Narsimha Reddy/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Narsimha%20Reddy/))

**Description** This subject introduces an investigation of the reactivity of covalent molecules, in particular, of carbon-based compounds. Focusing on introductory chemical dynamics and thermodynamics, students will develop an in-depth understanding of the structure, nomenclature and reactivity of the principal organic functional groups, extending their basic principles of chemistry. They will also understand how molecules are synthesised and the ways they react being important in the function and role of chemistry in biological systems in our domestic and industrial worlds.

**School Science**

**Discipline** Organic Chemistry

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 2 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 1 subject

**Equivalent Subjects** CHEM 1013 Essential Chemistry (WSTC)

**Assumed Knowledge**

An understanding and competence with basic chemical principles including SI units, chemical symbols, formulas and equations, nomenclature, stoichiometry, the mole concept, bonding, molecular shape and polarity, states and properties of matter, thermodynamics, equilibria, acids and bases, pH and electrochemistry. General Mathematics bands 5 and 6 or Mathematics band 4 or equivalent

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Explain the structure and function relationship between organic molecules and their physical and chemical properties
2. Recognise and predict the product of the following organic reactions: a) Elimination reaction of alcohols and alkyl halides, b) Addition reactions of alkenes, alkynes, aldehydes and ketones, c) Substitution reactions of alcohols, alkyl halides and carboxylic acid derivatives, d) Redox reactions of alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids and esters
3. Use experimental data to find the rate law and propose a mechanism for a chemical reaction
4. Explain the basic thermodynamic principles that govern chemical systems
5. Demonstrate competence in the manipulative laboratory skills and deductive skills involved in organic synthesis, thermodynamics and reaction kinetics
6. Record the results of their investigations demonstrating awareness of the conventions of scientific writing and graphical presentations
7. Apply and transfer chemical principles to other contexts such as biological systems

## Subject Content

1. Introduction to Chemical Dynamics: reactions kinetics - 1st order chemical reactions; rate law and mechanisms of reaction
2. Introduction to Chemical Thermodynamics; Spontaneity of reaction; Entropy; Enthalpy; Hess's Law
3. Organic chemistry: structure of principal organic functional groups, nomenclature, physical properties and structure; reaction types - addition, substitution, elimination, redox
4. Scientific method(s)
5. Setup and performance of a chemical synthesis, including setup and conducting a reflux, and distillation, use of separating funnel and recrystallisation, measurement of melting point, refractive index
6. Measurement, graphing and analysis of data

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Practical	6 x 3 hour practicals	30	N	Individual	N
Participation		5	N	Individual	N
Quiz	2 hours per week for 6 weeks	25	N	Individual	N
Final Exam	2 hours	40	N	Individual	N

Prescribed Texts

- Burrows, Andrew; Holman, John; Parsons, Andrew; Pilling, Gwen; Price, Gareth; Chemistry3, introducing Inorganic, Organic and Physical Chemistry; 3rd Edition Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-873380-5

Teaching Periods

## Spring (2025)

### Campbelltown

**On-site**

**Subject Contact** Narsimha Reddy ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Narsimha Reddy/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Narsimha%20Reddy/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=CHEM1012\\_25-SPR\\_CA\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=CHEM1012_25-SPR_CA_1#subjects))

### Hawkesbury

**On-site**

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View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=CHEM1012\\_25-SPR\\_HW\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=CHEM1012_25-SPR_HW_1#subjects))

### Parramatta - Victoria Rd

**On-site**

**Subject Contact** Narsimha Reddy ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Narsimha Reddy/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Narsimha%20Reddy/))

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