

**To:** Freshman CS majors  
**From:** John Schlipf, Associate Head, Department of CS  
**Re:** The elective in your fall quarter schedule  
**Date:** July 1, 2009

- **As you note**, the schedule of classes for CS majors has a **Mathematics/Natural Science elective** for first quarter Freshman year.
- And, **if you register for the CS learning community**, you should afterward go back to register for one additional course.
- **But which course?**
- **The short answer:** Take Chemistry, 15-CHEM-101.
- **The long answer**, complete with *whys*, *wherefors*, and *whatifs*:

1. Chemistry 101 is one of many courses that count as CS Mathematics/Natural Science electives. (See <http://www.cs.uc.edu/academics/CSelectiveList.pdf>.)

Most other majors in the College of Engineering expect you to take Chemistry 101 this quarter. So, to keep your options open as far as possible in case you might decide to switch majors in October (¿but who could *possibly* want to switch out of CS?), you're best off taking Chemistry 101. (Note: Some majors would also expect you to take Chemistry laboratory 111, so *possibly* you'd want to take that too. You can look at the learning community courses for the other majors – in your *Student Resource Manual* – to find out which ones want Chemistry lab. If you want to straddle between CS and Aerospace, ask advice.)

2. If you can't take Chemistry 101 (e.g., all sections might be full), or if you really don't want to, I'd next recommend Biology 101. (There is currently a strong job market for CS graduates with strong Biology backgrounds. Of course, a little Chemistry would help there too.) If you have credit (e.g., AP credit) for both Chemistry 101 and Biology 101, I, personally, would suggest Biology 102.

3. Unless you have *lots* of college-level credit (e.g., AP credit), you don't yet have the prerequisites for any of the Mathematics courses that count as Mathematics/Natural Science electives. If you choose to hold out for those courses, register for a "BoK" course now: essentially, swap the Mathematics/Natural Science course now in your schedule with a "BoK" course later in the curriculum. (Obviously, check prerequisites on these courses. Just imagine how much fun you'd have in a German literature course if you know no German!) You can find a list of available courses and their BoK classifications from the One Stop web site. Click on "view class offerings."

**Caution:** When we say "BoK" in the College of Engineering, we mean course satisfying UC General Elective requirements in Breadth of Knowledge areas *other than* QR (quantitative reasoning), NS (natural science), and EC (English Composition).