

Academic Year 2008-2009 Assessment Report  
Department of Chemistry  
Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Department of Chemistry is accredited by the American Chemical Society (ACS). To maintain our good standing a report is filed annually (see attachment). A more detailed report is filed every five years, including all course curricula, and is extensively reviewed. We implement whatever the ACS suggests following their perusal. The most recent report was filed this year (2009).

Our course assessments covering the 2008-2009 Academic Year are attached. We require the American Chemical Society standardized examinations in our courses, where such exams are available. Here we have chosen to group students in three categories: those falling  $\pm 10$  from the national norm, those greater than 10 from the national norm and those less than 10 of the national norm. Our courses that serve the college and university (general and organic chemistry) show a majority of students perform in the acceptable range or above. However, there is a percent that do fall below the acceptable range. In general chemistry where the Toledo placement exam has been given, there is little correlation between the results of the placement exam with the final grades in the course. We will try the California Diagnostic Test in order to seek a way of assessing students' preparation for general chemistry. For organic chemistry, the rather large percentage of students in the unacceptable range may be due to transfer students. Another possible explanation is that success in general chemistry may not be a good indicator of success in organic chemistry due to the fact that the course content in organic chemistry is markedly different from that in general chemistry. We will need to analyze the data to determine the cause. Our classes that serve mostly our own majors (523, 524, 546, 548, 615 and 663) show most students fall in the acceptable or above range.