

February 2026

TO: HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY TEACHERS
FROM: ACS HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
RE: 2026 SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

The Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society is sponsoring the 2026 Scholarship Examination. High school students in the Chicago area who are presently enrolled in the first-year of high school level chemistry are eligible. A.P. Chemistry is not considered a first-year high school chemistry course. We are asking teachers to register current students to take the exam (we do ask for student email addresses). At this point, we are anticipating holding the exam in-person. **The exam will be offered May 16, 9:30 am; check-in at 9:00 am.**
Your students may take the exam at one of 3 locations:

- Glenbrook South High School, 4000 W. Lake Ave, Glenview. Arrive at the Glenbrook South campus off of Lake Ave at Robin Ln. Park in the west parking lot and enter through Door O. Once inside, follow the directional signs to the testing area
- Whitney Young High School, 211 S. Laflin St, Chicago. Please enter through Door #1 on Laflin St.
- Benedictine University, 5700 College Rd, Lisle. The exam will take place in room 112 of Birck Hall.

The exam includes questions that are both concept-oriented and problem-solving in nature. Questions and problems will be representative of a **challenging first-year** high school chemistry course. The exam is expected to last 120 min. **Calculators, pencils, and scratch paper** will be provided to all students taking the exam, as well as a periodic table and values of select useful physical constants. Instances of dishonesty will warrant immediate disqualification from the exam competition plus referral to the appropriate high school principal. All exams will be graded as soon as possible.

Additional test materials can be found at: <http://chicagoacs.org/content.php?page=Scholarships>

To register student(s) for the Scholarship Exam:

1. Go to <http://chicagoacs.org/content.php?page=Scholarships>, click on the nominations form link, and enter the requested information.
2. Obtain a copy of the most recent **official transcript** (stamped by school registrar) and **official schedule** (showing the nominating chemistry teacher's name) for each student. We recognize that schools may not be able to supply these in a timely fashion, so we will accept screenshots or pdfs of student copies in order to sit for the exam and can be sent by email to chicagoacs@ameritech.net. **Official transcripts and schedules are required to win any scholarship.**
3. **Mail official transcript(s) and official schedule(s) to:**

All forms must be received at the ACS office by Tuesday May 5, 2026.

We suggest sending forms by delivery confirmation.

2026 Scholarship Exam
ACS Chicago Section Office
Krasa 035B and C, Benedictine University
5700 College Road
Lisle, IL 60532 847-391-9091

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOLARSHIP EXAM

1. A teacher may nominate only **two students** who are currently enrolled in his/her course during the **current school year**.
2. Obtain a copy of the most recent **official transcript** (stamped by school registrar) and **official schedule** (showing the nominating chemistry teacher's name) for each student. We recognize that schools may not be able to supply these in a timely fashion, so we will accept screenshots or pdfs of student copies in order to sit for the exam. **Official transcripts and schedules** are required to win any scholarship.
3. The nominations must be received no later than **Tuesday, May 5, 2026**. **Emails will be sent to registered students with information as it becomes available.**
4. Each student must have a **valid high school ID** at check-in/registration. No exceptions will be made. Yearbooks, birth certificates, etc. are **NOT** valid forms of identification.
5. The decisions of the ACS Scholarship Committee in interpreting these rules and in selecting winners are final. The top five students will earn monetary awards as indicated at <https://chicagoacs.org/Scholarships>. In addition, the **Marshall S. Smoler Award** will be given to the highest placing Chicago Public High School student (given by his sister, Rachel Smoler), the **Bernard E. Schaar Award**, from the Chicago Chemists' Club, is given to the highest-scoring student from the City of Chicago, and the **Marie Ann Lishka Memorial Scholarship Award** will be given to the highest scoring female high school student.
6. The listed prizes will be awarded in the form of payment of tuition and fees at a college or University of the winner's choice provided that (a) he/she is accepted at the school; (b) the school meets the requirements for professional training in chemistry as outlined by the American Chemical Society; (c) the winner enrolls in at least one course in chemistry during his or her freshman year. Any prize money in excess of tuition, fees, and books for the first year of study may be used for living expenses.
7. Each teacher of a nominee(s) of the top five awards will receive a one-year membership in AACT (or extension of current membership). If more than one teacher's name is on the nomination card, both teachers will be awarded AACT memberships.
8. All winners and their teachers are invited as guests and are expected to attend the Education Night meeting of the Chicago Section ACS for presentation of the awards/tuition certificates.

Please copy this letter and/or pass it on to your colleagues who may not have received this mailing. For more information, call the Chicago Section, ACS office at 847-391-9091 or send an email to scholarship@chicagoacs.org.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Consdorf
For Chicago ACS High School Education Committee