

USNCO Rules & Eligibility

All high school students attending the high schools in the US are eligible to participate in the local level competition organized by ACS Local Sections.

These rules apply to the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Exam only:

- Students must be U.S. citizens or legal, permanent residents of the United States (green card holders) to take the U.S. national examination.
- High school students who will graduate no earlier than the first of May of the year in which they participate in the competition are eligible.
- Students must be under the 20 years of age on the first of July of the year of the competition.
- No more than two students per high school per local section may be nominated to take the national exam. In the case of magnet programs, split enrollment, or cyber students, a student's school is defined as the high school from which the student will receive his or her diploma.
- Eligible students who have previously attended the study camp automatically qualify for the national exam and do not count against the limit on the number of eligible students from their local section or school.
- Winners of gold medals at the International Chemistry Olympiad are not eligible to participate in subsequent National Exams, study camps, or International Chemistry Olympiad competitions
- Students who have taken advanced placement courses in chemistry are eligible.
- A student may participate only in the competition of the section in which the student's high school is located. In the case of a cyber-student, the student shall participate in the local section where he or she is geographically located, regardless of where the cyber school is located. Cyber schools can nominate no more than two students.
- A student who participates in the Physics Olympiad study camp, the Mathematics Olympiad study camp, or the Biology Olympiad study camp is not eligible to participate in the Chemistry Olympiad study camp during the same summer.
- Only non-programmable calculators are to be used on the national exam and on the ACS local section exam, if used. The use of a programmable calculator, cell phone, or any other device that can access the internet or make copies or photographs during the exam is grounds for disqualification.

Students who are U.S. Citizens Living Abroad

A local and the national competition must be organized by an ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapter

Eligible students must be U.S. Citizens or legal, permanent residents of the USA (green card holders), enrolled in an American school* for at least one year, and under the age of 20.

* American school is defined as a school accredited by either the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSACS), the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges (NCASC), or the Northwest Association of College and Schools (NACS)