On March 24, 2021, Council approved the 2022 American Chemical Society (ACS) Schedule of Membership (SoM).

This document provides detailed information and answers to frequently asked questions regarding the SoM including:

- SoM: A Closer Look
- How the 2022 SoM Was Created
- The Structure of the New SoM for 2022
- Next Steps
Schedule of Membership: A Closer Look

What is the Schedule of Membership?

The Schedule of Membership (SoM) is the annual update to the Petition on Benefits and Dues. This Governing Document is reviewed and voted on annually.

The SoM enables the Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC) and the ACS to respond quicker and with greater agility to differing needs of membership. It also provides MAC the opportunity to develop and propose multiple versions of membership offerings that can provide:

- Differing levels of benefits, offerings, and/or programs, products and services
- Varying price points to deliver more specific and relevant value to members
- Varying price points to increase engagement with customers already using ACS products and programs, and that can deliver more value to individuals serving the chemistry enterprise (but are not currently members)
- Tailored discounts for various member groups

What is the process for Council oversight of the SoM?

Each year, Council will be presented with a new membership schedule to approve approximately nine months before it goes live.

If Council does not approve the new schedule, the previous year’s schedule remains in effect.
How the 2022 SoM Was Created

The 2022 SoM has been an all-encompassing, three-year process consisting of extensive and transformative market research, collective collaboration and a community membership pilot.

Extensive and Transformative Market Research

This important research validated the hypothesis of a new, tiered membership package model that was the basis for the new 2022 SoM. The research also outlined the enormous market demand and potential opportunity to include many more individuals within our community.

Modeling and market research demonstrated the effect on membership compositions, numbers, revenue and expenses, which revealed increased demand and improved revenues.

There was also considerable exploration of how other scientific membership associations have adapted similar changes to their membership structure in recent years.

Community Membership Pilot

MAC ran a pilot for Community Membership from April through August 2020, which was offered exclusively to non-member ACS Webinar registrants. This no-cost membership category provided access to a limited set of benefits to new members.

This free, easy, frictionless opportunity to become a Community Member of the ACS garnered more than 13,000 members over four months and validated the strong demand for this new associate category.

Other tests, including the multi-year benefits of membership, were used to gather data about interest level.

Collective Collaboration

Widespread discussions with Council, Committees (such as Budget & Finance and Constitution & Bylaws), Divisions, Local Sections and Members allowed MAC and ACS supporting staff to gather, evaluate and incorporate all feedback and questions around the Petition and the 2022 SoM.
The Structure of the New SoM for 2022

For most, the new SoM for 2022 will offer three package options:

- **A $160 full price (regular) package** – This option will offer the same benefits as today’s existing membership at a slightly reduced cost.

- **An $80 mid-point priced package** – Created to offer a sustainable option for prospective or regular members who use fewer benefits, the mid-point package will NOT provide access to publications and CAS benefits, ACS Meeting discounts, or the ACS Webinars Library.

- **A free package** – A substantially scaled back offering compared to the other two versions; this level provides an opportunity to engage with the ACS and includes alternative versions of benefits such as a lighter digital version of C&EN.

Details about cost and eligibility will be outlined to individuals during the registration or renewal process. (See next question for additional information about eligibility.)

What else should I know about the 2022 SoM?

Out of a desire to build an inclusive and attractive membership for all students, the SoM was restructured to ensure they will continue to receive a full set of benefits at reduced prices ($55 for graduate students, $25 for undergraduates). The same market research mentioned earlier revealed increases in student affiliation, as a result. MAC believes strongly in serving this important community due to its propensity to provide a strong and steady pipeline of future members. To ensure that this reduced price is more sustainable, only digital C&EN will be provided for undergraduate and graduate students.

Besides a slight reduction in dues to $80, Retired Members will not see any change to their membership benefits. Similarly, Emeritus Members will see no change.

The 2022 SoM was also restructured to provide clarity in eligibility for various existing discounts and waivers in light of the newly proposed packages.

Through these new membership levels, we hope to simplify the complexity that currently exists within the governing documents.

What will happen to the allocations and the dues pool with these changes?

Nothing will change for allocations. The Board of Directors voted to secure the dues pool to local sections and divisions to 2018 levels over the period of 2021 through 2025. This action removes any impact on dues resulting from the new membership schedule. The board will continually revisit this commitment for 2026 and beyond.

Initial research indicates that a change to the total dues pool will not be detrimental to allocations. The work indicates that the new membership schedule will instead propel growth for dues over the current declining trajectory.
Next Steps

Now that the SoM has been approved, what happens next?

The new schedule will be activated for both existing and new members on January 1, 2022.

How can I get more details about the different membership packages?

More details about the different membership packages will be provided in the coming months.

Information about how it specifically relates to current members will also be provided in the ACS renewal communications for 2022.

What should I do if I have feedback?

As always, MAC welcomes feedback and is open to ideas from the membership regarding the new structure. The 2022 SoM includes a formal petition process, and you can also contact the committee directly at mac@acs.org or approach any of the MAC members for a discussion.