From Freshman Chemistry to Senior Level Soil Chemistry. (S02-xia102451-Oral)

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Abstract:

Majority of the undergraduate students enrolled in my senior level soil chemistry course in the past three years majored in Environmental Soil Science. About 30% of them planed to enroll in graduate program after graduation. A small percentage (10%) desired to return to family farm. Almost more than 60% of the students wished to find employment in government agencies, private environmental consulting companies, environmental analytical laboratories, and teaching high schools. In many universities, Freshman Chemistry is normally the only chemistry course that is required before the students begin to take Soil Chemistry to fulfill the major requirements of the curriculum for Environmental Soil Science Major. About 80% of the students expressed their concern of not remembering what they learned in their Freshman Chemistry course. Those students felt intimidated by the hard-core chemistry concepts they anticipated to deal with. To help the students make the transition from Freshmen Chemistry to Soil Chemistry, the major focus of my course was to integrate the basic chemical principles and laws taught in Freshman Chemistry with soil properties, functions, reactions, and its role in the environment.

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