Course Syllabus

✎ Edit

CHEM 695: Graduate Education in Chemistry

FALL 2025 COURSE INFORMATION

Course Sessions:

Fridays in GMCS 329 from 12 – 1:40pm

Mode: In-Person Discussion

Instructors:

Dr. Christal Sohl (She/Her)   Office Hours: by appointment only (email for scheduling)

csohl@sdsu.edu (mailto:csohl@sdsu.edu)

Welcome to Chem 695! This course is designed to introduce new graduate students to the department and the variety of roles and responsibilities included therein. In this course we will develop academic skills as scientists, students, and mentors. This will include presentation skills, management and lab safety, research and mentorship ethics, providing feedback, scientific reading and writing, use of online resources, networking, and career planning. This course is designed to support YOU as a new graduate student, therefore we will work together to make this class useful for everyone. Our mission is to set you up for success and provide the community structure to support you long-term.

Students are provided with an SDSU Gmail account, and this ⤷ **(https://gsuite.sdsu.edu/) SDSU email address** ⤷ **(https://gsuite.sdsu.edu/)** will be used for all communications. All communication regarding this course should occur through official SDSU email accounts. The course instructors will

be available via email to answer questions or to schedule office hour appointments. Please allow 24-48 hours for a response, longer over weekends and holidays.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Skills and knowledge needed for success in a chemistry graduate program and development as a scientist. Topics to include introduction to department research, ethics, laboratory safety, mentorship, campus resources, career planning, and effective means of finding and communicating chemical information.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

For millennia, the Kumeyaay people have been a part of this land. This land has nourished, healed, protected and embraced them for many generations in a relationship of balance and harmony. As members of the San Diego State University community, we acknowledge this legacy. We promote this balance and harmony. We find inspiration from this land, the land of the Kumeyaay.

ESSENTIAL STUDENT INFORMATION

For essential information about student academic success, please see the **[⤷ (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rXNpNGs1K7nlxcS73o6R-fxZqPIWQwS9gHD7XpIqjhM/edit) SDSU Student Academic Success Handbook ⤷ (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rXNpNGs1K7nlxcS73o6R-fxZqPIWQwS9gHD7XpIqjhM/edit)](.)** .

- SDSU provides disability-related accommodations via the Student Disability Services Center (sds@sdsu.edu |**[https://sds.sdsu.edu/](.) ⤷ [(https://sds.sdsu.edu/)](.)**) Please allow 10-14 business days for this process.
- Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. Please let me know if you would prefer an alternate name and/or gender pronoun.

COURSE MATERIALS

On Being a Scientist: A guide to responsible conduct in research. 3rd edition. Available on course Canvas page and free at: **⤷ [(http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12192)](.) [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12192](.) ⤷ [(http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12192)](.)**

All other required readings will be made available through Canvas.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

LO1) Describe the diversity of research within the and make an appropriate choice of research group for graduate study.

LO2) Evaluate ethical situations associated with research and know the appropriate steps to take to maintain high ethical standards.

LO3) Recognize that science is a human endeavor and therefore is impacted by issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion at both local and global scales.

LO4) Perform safely in a laboratory both as a student and as a researcher.

LO5) Identify campus and external resources to support wellness, professional development, mentor-mentee relationships, and career planning.

LO6) Search efficiently for the chemical information needed for course and research work and use popular software to support research work and communication.

COURSE DESIGN

Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity: In this course, we are committed to creating a safe space for people of all views and backgrounds. We may cover difficult topics in this course regarding social issues that you may encounter while teaching or at some other point in your teaching career. It is our intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, perspective, and other background characteristics. Suggestions about how to improve the value of diversity and inclusion in this course are encouraged and appreciated.

Community Building: This is a course designed to build community among the graduate student cohort and beyond. The course instructors are committed to your success and we intend to support the formation of a community among your peers to expand that support. Formation of a graduate student community can be an integral part of your success and this course will lay the framework for such a community.

AI Policy: Students are allowed to use AI for polishing editing (i.e., the use of Grammarly), but are required to disclose what they used and how on their submitted materials. Students are not allowed to

use generative AI to create content in this course (including creating presentations, CVs/Resumes, Reflections, and any other written or verbal assignments). Misuse of generative AI is a violation of the course policy on academic honesty and will be reported to the University.

Assignments:

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Class attendance and participation (13 classes x 10 pts)	130 points
Rotations Ranking Survey (due Aug 27)	20 points
Remembering your journey (due Sept 5)	15 points
Canvas Introduction (due Sept 5)	20 points
Funding Plan (due Sept 12)	30 points
Reflection #1 (due Sept 19)	25 points
IDP (due Sept 26)	20 points
Mentor Map (due Oct 3)	20 points
Resume/CV Draft + Peer Review (due Oct 10)	20 points
RCR Case Studies prep/presentation (due Oct 17)	30 points

CITI RCR Training Completion (due Oct 17)	20 points
Implicit Association Reflection (due Oct 24)	25 points
Reflection #2 (due Oct 31)	25 points
Student Mini-Presentation Outline (due Nov 7)	30 points
Student Mini-Presentation Peer Feedback (due Nov 14)	15 points
Mini Presentation Reflection/Revision (due Nov 21)	40 points
Writing Assignment + Peer Review	45 points
Final Lab Ranking	20 points
Reflection #3	25 points
TOTAL	*Total: 575*

GRADING POLICIES

Grading Scale:

A = ≥ 92.5%   A- = 89.5-92.4%

B+ = 87.5-89.4%   B = 82.5-87.4%   B- = 79.5-82.4%

C+ = 77.5-79.4%   C = 72.5-77.4%   C- = 69.5-72.4%

D+ = 67.5-69.4%   D = 62.5-67.4%   D- = 59.5-62.4%

F < 59.4%

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Tue Dec 3, 2024	📄 **Informational Interview Questions**	to do: 1pm
Wed Aug 27, 2025	📝 **Rotations ranking survey** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1616506)	due by 12pm
Fri Sep 5, 2025	💬 **Canvas Introduction** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1616215)	due by 9am
	📝 **Remembering your journey** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1665007)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 12, 2025	📝 **Funding Plan** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1616960)	due by 9am
	📝 **Reflection 1** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1616959)	due by 9am
Fri Sep 26, 2025	📝 **IDP** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1632573)	due by 9am
Fri Oct 3, 2025	📝 **Mentor Map** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1632665)	due by 9am

Fri Oct 10, 2025	📝 **Resume/CV Draft + Peer Review** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1632668)	due by 9am
Fri Oct 17, 2025	📝 **RCR Case Studies Prep/Presentation** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1632671)	due by 9am
Fri Oct 24, 2025	📝 **Implicit Association Reflection** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1632672)	due by 9am
	📝 **RCR Completion Certificate** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1632669)	due by 9am
Fri Oct 31, 2025	📝 **Reflection 2** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1632673)	due by 9am
Fri Nov 7, 2025	📝 **Student Mini-Presentation Outline** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1632691)	due by 9am
Fri Nov 14, 2025	💬 **Mini-Presentation Peer Feedback** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1633049)	due by 4:30pm
Fri Nov 21, 2025	📝 **Mini Presentation Reflection/Revision** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1632690)	due by 9am
Fri Dec 5, 2025	📝 **Reflection 3** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1632683)	due by 9am
	📝 **Submit Final Lab Ranking** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1632991)	due by 9am
	📝 **Writing Assignment + Peer Review** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1632951)	due by 9am
	📝 **Roll Call Attendance** (https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1616214)	

📝 **[Zoom Research Chat Reflection: Due Aug 20, End of Day](https://sdsu.instructure.com/courses/186119/assignments/1646972)**