

CHEM 199, Professional Development
University of Vermont, Spring Semester, 2022

General Information

Instructor: Prof. Christopher Landry

E-mail: christopher.landry@uvm.edu

Meeting Time: Mondays, 2:20-3:10 pm

Office Hours: Tues 1:00-2:30 pm; Fri 2:00-3:30 pm

Office: Innovation E356

Phone: 656-0270

Meeting room: Old Mill Annex A303

The instructor reserves the right to change everything, with notice.

Course Description

From the course catalogue: "Skills necessary for senior Chemistry majors to transition to postgraduate careers, including resume and proposal writing, presentations, and other techniques."

Learning outcomes: The primary goal of this course is to introduce you to tools and skills that you will find useful as you embark on a career after graduation, for example in preparing job applications, applying to graduate or professional schools, or other career-related activities.

During the semester, you will learn how to write individual development plans, resumés and curricula vitae, cover letters, and personal essays. You will also be introduced to several online networking tools that you will find useful as you explore possible career paths. We will hear advice from the UVM Career Center about the job application and networking process. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we will hear from several people with chemistry backgrounds about their own experiences in finding careers; I think you will be interested to hear about how a career is generally not a linear path.

Course structure: The course meets on Mondays each week. In general, homework will be assigned and will be due either in class, on Blackboard, or by e-mail to me at the address above. We will meet in person except on the days when we are meeting guest speakers; on those days, we will meet in Microsoft Teams.

Assessment: In a course of this nature, attendance (20%) and participation (20%) are important components. The remaining 60% of your grade will be based on assignments. There are no tests, and there is no final exam for the course.

Textbook: There is no textbook for this class. We will use some online resources, and most class time will be devoted to talking about careers, learning skills, or listening to presentations.

Communication: I guarantee that I will be available during office hours. If for some reason I cannot be available, I will send a message to the class. Outside of office hours, e-mail is generally the best way to get in touch with me. I am available by e-mail from 8am to 6pm Monday – Thursday, and from 8am to 3pm Friday. If you send me a message during this time, I will try to respond within one business day.

Academic honesty: As UVM students, you are expected to conduct yourself in accordance with the Code of Academic Integrity: <http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/acadintegrity.pdf> .

Inclusion: While the field of chemistry has not always been inclusive and diverse, our current chemistry community increasingly reflects the world outside of the laboratory. Science and scientists are not immune to bias, but we can make ourselves aware of it and actively work against it in our everyday lives. In this class, we will discuss ways to find out the track record of a company on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues and how to think about those issues when considering whether to accept a job. Several of our alumni speakers are from groups traditionally underrepresented in chemistry on the basis of race, gender, or other reasons, and I would encourage you to ask them about their own experiences in the workplace. Finally, it is my intention to create an environment where all beliefs are valued. No one should feel afraid to state their opinion, and everyone should

feel confident and supported by the group. If you experience any form of bias in our class or at UVM, please feel free to use me as a resource. A list of other resources focused on DEI are included below.

Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

<https://www.uvm.edu/diversity>

The Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion believes excellence should be inclusive of the entire University of Vermont (UVM) community and is steadfastly committed to this belief. Every day, our Division strives to make our work accessible, affirming, and action-oriented to help ensure excellence is inclusive of everyone.

UVM Prism Center

<https://www.uvm.edu/prism>

The Prism Center serves the diverse queer and trans communities at the University of Vermont. We support and empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students, as well as students whose identities fall in between or expand beyond those categories, and work to create a campus community where people of all sexual and gender identities can thrive.

Interfaith Center

<https://www.uvm.edu/interfaithcenter>

Each of us engages those questions differently, perhaps through a religious tradition, philosophy, or spiritual practice. No matter how you make meaning of your life, you are welcome at the Interfaith Center for reflection, spiritual practice, education, and community building.

Mosaic Center for Students of Color

<https://www.uvm.edu/mcsc>

The Mosaic Center for Students of Color (MCSC) Vision is to create a diverse and rich community of empowered, engaged, and enthusiastic students of color at UVM. We fully support the holistic development of self-identified students of color so that they can obtain their goals for academic achievement, personal growth, identity formation, and cultural development.

Women & Gender Equity Center

<https://www.uvm.edu/wagecenter>

The UVM Women & Gender Equity Center cultivates joyful community while advancing gender equity across identities. We envision a brave, diverse, and equitable learning environment for all members of the UVM community. We provide advocacy services for those in our community who have experienced sexual or intimate partner violence, and strive to provide programming, education, and events that ask our community to explore the intersections of their gender and other identities.

CHEM 199 — Tentative Lecture Schedule, Spring 2022

Date	Material	Activity	Homework
January 24	Introduction to course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet peers • Identify interests/career objectives • Identify paths to chemistry careers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete ACS Individual Development Plan (https://chemidp.acs.org) and e-mail confirmation to me
January 31	CV/Resumé preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define/describe CV vs. resumé in terms of uses • Differences between scientific and non-scientific materials • identify skills acquired so far and what skills are missing, based on career goals • write draft CV and resumé 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete draft resumé; print and bring to class
February 7	CV/Resumé workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • share CV and resumé • write comments and constructive criticism for review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • redraft resumé based on comments and e-mail completed versions to me
February 14	Cover Letter & Personal Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify relevant parts of cover letter and personal statement • review and critique examples of actual cover letters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • redraft example cover letter according to critiques and recommended structure; e-mail to me
February 21	President's Day (no class)		
February 28	Brian Park, UVM Career Center Counselor, STEM Interest Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to Career Center workshop; services provided • social media platforms: LinkedIn, Handshake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete accounts on both platforms and e-mail confirmation to me
March 7	Spring Break (no class)		
March 14	Speaker TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussion about how the speaker arrived at their current position and how their chemistry background informs their job today 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackboard: submit 1 question for the speaker before presentation and 1 comment about their presentation afterwards
March 21	Patrick Strobel, Richford High School		
March 28	Susan Sobolov, Caelum Biosciences		
April 4	Mark Metzke, Knobbe, Martens		
April 11	Rodney Clemons, IQVIA, Inc.		
April 18	Anya Guschin, Clinical Asst. Prof., University of Pittsburgh		
April 25	Review of speakers' presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about how your views on scientific career paths have/have not changed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-mail reflection to me
May 2	Scientific ethics workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of ethical challenges faced by scientists and chemists in academia and industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write 2 page analysis of an ethical problem and a 3 page review of what you have learned in the course; email to me with revised ACS IDP