

Welcome to Chem3A!

How does this class work?

Chem3A is completely “in-person”. Our lectures will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00-11:30am in Baskin Engineering 152. It is expected that you will attend the lecture you are enrolled in, though attendance will not be tracked. If you can’t attend a lecture, then please watch the lecture recording. There is a link to “Lecture Recordings” inside our canvas course.

ALEKS will be used for all homework assignments called “Objectives”, and will be due every Wednesday and Friday. We will also have ALEKS “Homework Check-in” assignments due on Sundays. **Please work on ALEKS each day. Plan to spend at least 8-10 hours on ALEKS per week.**

Please check our canvas page often. Our canvas course is organized into Weekly Modules, which will have all the resources you need to complete the work for the week.

Your Chem3A Teaching Team

- **Instructor: Prof. Caileen Brison, PhD (she/her) cbrison@ucsc.edu**
- **Teaching Assistants: Jake Dibello (he/him) jdibello@ucsc.edu**

Mon = OH: 1-2:00 (zoom)

Wed = Discussion in 240: 12:30-1:45 weekly on wednesdays

Thur = Discussion in 240: 12:15-1:30 on all Thursdays except 7/11 (PSB 145)

Please communicate with our teaching team via Ed Discussion or email, NOT canvas message.

What do I need for Chem3A?

1. **ALEKS:** we will use this Web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system for out-of-class work – go to canvas and click on ALEKS in the left sidebar menu. **You get 2 weeks of FREE access** (with the Temporary Access code below) so use it to see how the system works and then decide if you want the e-textbook (~\$10-15 difference).
 1. Financial Aid Access Code for two free weeks of ALEKS: **A6FE2-60EDC-5D47D-BB52B**
 2. You can purchase ALEKS through the McGraw Hill Website, after you have started the free trial with the code above. You can purchase either 1-term of access or one year of access. Chem3B and Chem3C will also use ALEKS. Check your major requirements to see if you need the entire year sequence.

ALEKS Only (no e-book)

6-week: \$25

52-weeks: \$98

ALEKS 360 (includes e-book)

6-week: \$35

52-weeks (one year): \$118

Do I need to purchase the book? If you can afford to get the book, especially if purchasing the 52-week access, then please do. We will use the book quite heavily in Chem3B and 3C. But if you don’t get e-book access, you will be fine. We have lots of old copies of the book that you can consult in the General Chemistry Learning Center, located in the Physical Sciences Building (PSB) room 209.

1. You can also purchase ALEKS from Baytree bookstore, but the prices about \$10-15 higher than from the publisher McGraw Hill.
1. **Scientific calculator** with *log* and *ln* functions - bring to every class, especially exams. You cannot use your cell phone on tests, so please get used to using your scientific calculator. We are happy to help you learn how to use your calculator! There are a lot of tricks that can make the calculator work more straightforward.
 1. The TI-30X IIS Scientific Calculator is a good option because it shows entries on the top line and results on the bottom line. You can get one for about \$15.
 2. A programmable calculator is not necessary, though if you have one, you can use it in this class.
2. **Time to study:** A 5-credit course assumes a median workload of 15 hours per week, depending on your prior knowledge of chemistry. For this course, estimates of the weekly workload are:
 - 3.5 hours: Attend lecture
 - 8-10 hours: Completing ALEKS Assignments (required)
 - 1 hour: Attending Discussion Section (mandatory)
 - 1-3 hours: reviewing material

Grading in Chem 3A

Grading Philosophy for this class. We believe that everyone can learn chemistry. We recognize that your performance will be affected by your prior knowledge and many circumstances outside of your control. We know that it takes time to learn and give you many opportunities to show that you are learning.

Your grade is what you earn. **We do not curve grades** because we don't want your grade to change based on how others in the class performed. **You are not competing with anyone.**

Letter Grades

Letter grades will be assigned according to your total percentage score that incorporates all items above.

	B+: 85-87.99%	C+: 73-78.99%	C-: 60-64.99%
A: 90 and above%	B: 80-84.99%	C: 65% -72.99%	D: 50-59.99%
A-: 88-89.99%	B-: 78-79.99%	C grade is minimum grade to take any classes that have 3A as a prereq	F: 49 and below

ALEKS Objectives (aka Homework)

ALEKS is the online learning system we will use in this class. The value of this program is that you get instant feedback on your work, along with support on each question. We use ALEKS because there is an explanation

for every question posed. After you get three questions correct in a row, you have proved that you have learned a topic and can move on to the next topic.

Knowledge Checks (KC) are **ungraded** quizzes that help you learn if you are retaining what you learned. **KCs do not impact your grade in this class.** If you answer a question incorrectly, you may be required to go back and review that topic. When a Knowledge Check comes up, you can't do anything in ALEKS until you complete the Knowledge Check. **DO NOT mark "I don't know" for all the questions just to get through the Knowledge Check fast.** This will result in you having to go back and learn a lot of topics again. If this happens, e-mail Prof. Eroy-Reveles and she will reset the Knowledge Check so you can take it again.

There are 3 knowledge checks throughout the session; once at the start of the week, once after "light" and once after "hybridization". They are scheduled at these times to help prepare you for the homework and final. When ALEKS actually assigns the Knowledge Check to you is based on what work you have completed, so I can't give exact dates for when to expect the check.

*Taking the Knowledge Check before a test is **THE BEST** way to study because it tells you what you need to go back and re-learn.* You can always ask Prof. Eroy-Reveles to assign you a knowledge check, which many pro-active students do before tests.

How is my ALEKS grade calculated? The majority of your grade from ALEKS (40%) will be based on your two homework assignments. 30% of your grade is completing ALEKS Objectives on time. **There are no extensions on Objectives.** They are critical to advancing your knowledge and will greatly prepare you for the quarter ahead. 30% of your ALEKS grade is the "Pie Progress Goal" at the end of the quarter which captures your progress for the entirety of the quarter.

How do I catch up? We don't have any Objectives open from Saturday to Monday every week. During this time, you can work on any topics you are "ready to learn" including those that were previously not learned. You can also review content in prior Objectives or work ahead on topics for future Objectives. This is also possible when you finish an Objective early. **Every Saturday-Monday students can catch up in ALEKS if they weren't able to finish the previous Objectives.** There are no "extensions" on ALEKS, but even if someone does not complete a single Objective on time, they can still get the majority of the points just by learning the topic by the end of the term.

ALEKS is not a platform that allows you to "cram" so please make sure you are working on ALEKS everyday. During a 5 week quarter, students spend an average of 8-14 hours/week on ALEKS.

ALEKS Objectives will be due every Wednesday and Friday at 11:59PM.

Resources for Success in Chem 3A and at UCSC

Free Tutoring with [Learning Support Services \(LSS\)](#)

Learning Support Services Tutors are an important part of the teaching team. They help facilitate group discussions or activities in class and may also do the same in section. Your tutors are undergraduate students who took the class, did well, and received extensive training on how to support you in the course.

Your tutors lead large group tutoring sessions outside of class - they are available several days a week and attendance is voluntary; *however, students who attend sessions weekly tend to earn a higher final grade than students who do not participate.*

Ask your tutor for more information about session times, visit our [website](#), or visit us [in person at the ARCenter](#) or remotely at our [Virtual Front Desk](#), M-F 9am-6pm. You can also view your Tutor's schedule on [The Tutor Hub](#).

[Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#)

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please talk with Prof. Eroy-Reveles **to discuss ways we can ensure your full participation in the course**, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. I encourage all students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu.

[Academic Integrity](#)

All members of the UCSC community benefit from an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. You are expected to present your own work and acknowledge the work of others in order to preserve the integrity of scholarship.

Academic integrity includes:

- Following exam rules
- Using only permitted materials during an exam
- Viewing exam materials only when permitted by your instructor
- Keeping what you know about an exam to yourself
- Submitting your own original work

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Disclosing or sharing exam content during or after you have taken an exam
- Accessing exam materials without permission
- Copying/purchasing any material from another student, or from another source, that is submitted for grading as your own
- Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student's transcript. For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the [Academic Misconduct page](#) at the [Division of Undergraduate Education](#).

In Chem3A, you are NOT allowed to consult with any person or website for help during any quizzes, tests, or exams. We are happy to help you with ALEKS anytime.

Please be patient with your learning. This is just the beginning of your college career. Learning and mastering the material should be your goal for this class, not a specific letter grade. Chemistry builds on itself, so something that you might not fully understand in Chem3A might make more sense to you in Chem3B or 3C.

Campus Advocacy, Resources, and Education (CARE) Office

The UCSC [Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education \(CARE\) Office](#) believes that all people deserve to live and engage in an environment free from violence. The CARE program provides support, advocacy, resources and violence prevention education to the UCSC community. We respond to the needs of students, staff, faculty and non-affiliates impacted by stalking, dating/domestic violence and sexual assault by providing free and confidential services.

Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the Campus Advocacy Resources & Education (CARE) Office by calling (831) 502-2273. In addition, Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) can provide confidential, counseling support, (831) 459-2628. You can also report gender discrimination directly to the University's Title IX Office, (831) 459-2462. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD, (831) 459-2231 ext. 1. For emergencies call 911.

Faculty and Teaching Assistants are required under the [UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#) to inform the Title IX Office should they become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.

Slug Support Program

College can be a challenging time for students and during times of stress it is not always easy to find the help you need. Slug Support can give help with everything from basic needs (housing, food, or financial insecurity) to getting the technology you need during remote instruction.

To get started with SLUG Support, please contact the Dean of Students Office at 831-459-4446 or you may send us an email at deanofstudents@ucsc.edu.

Information Technology Services

The ITS Support Center is your single point of contact for all issues, problems or questions related to technology services and computing at UC Santa Cruz. To get technological help, simply email help@ucsc.edu.

Commitment to Equity

This course is meant to be a safe learning space for EVERYONE, regardless of race, ethnicity, background, prior science experience, sexual orientation, gender, pronoun choices, etc. Any violations should be reported to the Teaching Team and will be dealt with appropriately. The design of the lectures and assessments are meant to give everyone the opportunity for success.

This course is a WORK IN PROGRESS. Your feedback is essential, both as the course is going and for future iterations.

Weekly Schedule

There is a canvas module for each week that includes a study guide with details on what we are learning and how it fits into the class, suggested sections of the book to preview, tips on solving ALEKS questions, and more. This class does not follow the sequential order of the textbook so it is important to look at the study guide to figure out how to prepare for lecture.

Weekly Topics	Due Wednesday	Due Friday	Due Sunday
Jun 24: Intro, 3A Basics & Periodic Table Trends, Ions	ALEKS Objective 1	ALEKS Objective 2	
July 1: Molecules, polarity, IMF	ALEKS Objective 3 & 4	ALEKS Objective 5 & 6	ALEKS Homework Check-in 1
July 8: Scientific Notation, Light, Orbitals & Hybridization	ALEKS Objective 7	ALEKS Objective 8	
July 15: Mols, reactions, & yields	ALEKS Objective 9 & 10	ALEKS Objective 12 & 13	ALEKS Homework Check-in 2
July 22: Heats of Reactions & Ionic Equations	ALEKS Objective 14 & 15, ALEKS Pie Progress (Due Monday 7/22 11:59 PM)	ALEKS Objective 11 (extra credit), Final Exam	

You can find when all your Final Exams are scheduled [here](#). The Registrar publishes this schedule at the same time that course day/times are posted for the next term, before anyone starts signing up for classes. Lots of great info on the page!