

Welcome to Jefferson! The Chemistry and Biology faculty would like to share several details about our General Chemistry and Biology courses during summer orientation to provide everyone with a smooth transition to begin the Fall 2023 semester. We are excited to welcome all of you to campus, and we hope that you enjoy the rest of your summer!

General Information:

Laboratory Coats and Eye Protection:

Lab coats and eye protection are mandatory for chemistry and biology labs. They will not be provided by the University – you must purchase your own. Alpha Chi Sigma will offer opportunities to purchase lab coats and safety glasses in affordable bundles – details will be shared at the start of the semester. If you're interested in learning more about Alpha Chi Sigma or becoming a pledge, please contact Dr. Washington Marlena.Washington@jefferson.edu or Corinne Harper Corinne.Harper@students.jefferson.edu. If you would like to purchase lab safety gear before the semester begins, here are some affordable options:

Lab Coats: amazon.com/dp/B0072IHU5G/

Goggles: amazon.com/dp/B00467C7AE/
amazon.com/dp/B005QQF4PE/

Academic Integrity and Department Culture:

Our department trains students who will go on to have careers as medical practitioners or as scientists working in the life sciences. Medical practitioners have deep responsibilities for patients' lives, well-being, and privacy. Scientists must uphold high ethical standards with regard to the conduct of their research. In fact, the process by which we make new scientific discoveries depends on the integrity of individual scientists to function.

Academic integrity is a policy about ethical behavior at the University regarding one's intentions, decisions, and actions while conducting academic work. It includes values such as avoidance of the following: cheating; plagiarism; copying; and falsification of information. We believe that it is important to start living those standards during the undergraduate years. Each class you take in the department will have clear guidelines in the syllabus regarding academic misconduct and the consequences for violations. These standards will be enforced! Academic integrity standards are not meant to be a trap or a pitfall, they are there to guide your professional development. There are three main aspects of academic integrity to keep in mind:

Originality – all work that you produce for anything that is not *specifically* designated as a group assignment should be your own original work. Assignments in your science classes are meant to give you practice in the kinds of writing that will be required in your

profession. Text generated by generative AIs such as ChatGPT is not considered original work.

Attribution – text or ideas borrowed from primary sources needs to be appropriately cited. If you aren't sure *how* something should be cited, *ask* your instructor. You will spend time learning about how and when to cite during your freshman year. As a general piece of advice, if you are in doubt about whether you need to cite something, cite it!

Respect – treat your fellow students, instructors, teaching assistants, and department staff as you would want to be treated. Be thoughtful in your communications! Our department is comprised of diverse individuals from widely varying backgrounds, as are the medical and scientific fields into which you will be graduating.

The University's [complete academic integrity policy](#) is available in the Academic Catalog.

Computer Hardware & Software:

In order for students to successfully complete all coursework, you must have an Apple (with OS 10.14 Mojave or newer) or Windows (with Windows 10 or newer) computer. Chromebooks are discouraged due to potential incompatibility with software that you will need to use. Microsoft Office (rather than Google platforms) is the software package you will need.

Do you have a laptop and don't have Microsoft Office yet? No problem! Your school email account [provides access](#).

Looking to install other software? You can view the complete list [here](#).

Chemistry-Specific Information:

Summer Math Prep Assignment:

We understand that everyone's chemistry experience may be varied – maybe you just finished AP chemistry; maybe you took chemistry two years ago; or maybe you've never taken a chemistry course. To ensure that your learning is focused on mastery of chemistry concepts, we prepared a math review focusing on valuable skills that you will use over the coming academic year. Instructions for accessing the assignment are below. **Please start working on the assignment over the summer so that you can arrive to campus prepared. However, the assignment is due at the end of the 2nd week of classes, on September 1st.** This math review is worth 3% of your final lecture grade.

Enrollment in Summer Math Prep Assignment:

You will complete the math prep assignment using Aktiv Chemistry. Aktiv is the same system that you will use to complete homework assignments in your General Chemistry lectures. The Aktiv platform works in your computer browser or as an app on your phone or tablet. You may also use Aktiv to participate in live, in-class activities, so you're encouraged to install the app on a phone or tablet. Please follow these instructions to access Aktiv and the math prep:

1. Visit aktiv.com/login. If you are a new Aktiv user, click 'Create New Account'. If you already have an Aktiv account, log in and skip to step 4.
2. Create a student account by filling out the sign-up form. Please enter your first and last name as it will appear on course rosters. It is recommended, but you do not need to use your Jefferson student email for your account. You can enter your campus key (your University assigned code based on your 3 letter initials, followed by 3 numbers) for your 'Student ID'.
3. Verify your account via by clicking on the confirmation request that will be sent to your registered email.
4. In your account page, click 'Join Course' and enter: **KTBEBQ** as your course code.
5. Download Aktiv Learning from the App Store or Play Store on your iPhone, iPad, or Android device. Log into the app using the same login credentials from above.
6. You should now have access to the 'General Chemistry I Summer Review (Summer 2023)' course in your browser and on your mobile devices. If you do not initially see the 'Summer 2023 Math Review' assignment, click/tap on 'Homework' across the top of the page.
7. You can complete the assignment questions at your own pace in any order. The menu will display how many attempts remain on each question.
8. You will receive enrollment instructions specific to your course instructor at the start of the semester.

Chemistry Textbook Information:

We use [Chemistry: Atoms First 2e.](#), a free, open-source textbook available through OpenStax. You can view the textbook via a web browser, via an app, or download the pdf. If you prefer a hardcopy book, paperback and hardcover versions of the textbook are available on Amazon using the ISBN code 978-1-947172-64-7. New and used physical textbook options are available.

We encourage all students to sign up for a free OpenStax student account. Logging into the online textbook with an account allows you to highlight and annotate your personal textbook. You will also gain access to study tips and the student solutions manual.

Molecular Modeling Kits: Molecular modeling kits are a useful tool to help visualize molecular shapes and bond angles. You will be permitted to use modeling kits during exams in general chemistry. If your program of study requires additional chemistry courses beyond general chemistry, modeling kits may be useful in future courses too. There are a variety of molecular modeling kits available through online retailers such as Amazon. Below are links to some modeling kit choices that would all work very well:

<https://www.schoolspecialty.com/molymod-molecular-geometry-vsepr-model-kit-528384>

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B072WRWBLZ>

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00F25ZERW>

If you have any questions or technical difficulties with the Chemistry math review assignment, you can email the General Chemistry Course Coordinator, Dr. Kyle Wagner at kxw247@jefferson.edu. If you have questions regarding Biology prep, you can email the General Biology Course Coordinator, Dr. Molly Bindell at Molly.Bindell@jefferson.edu. If you have any

computer hardware or software questions, you can reach out to the Help Desk at EFHelpDesk@Jefferson.edu. Enjoy the rest of summer, and welcome to Jefferson!

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