

CHEM 183: A TEACHING ASSISTANT COURSE FOR UNDERGRADUATES

A **Learning Assistants (LA) Program in Chemistry** has been implemented to achieve the following goals:

- To improve the quality of science education for all undergraduates
- To recruit and prepare talented science majors for careers in teaching

LAs work directly with peers in the general chemistry laboratory in a role similar to that of a Teaching Assistant (TA). This experience provides the LAs with the opportunity to:

- 1) develop a deeper chemistry content knowledge
- 2) improve communication and teaching skills
- 3) develop a deeper understanding of the learning process
- 4) help build skills required for teaching positions such as CLAS tutoring positions

As LAs learn education pedagogy, they can practice what they learn as LAs in the chemistry lab.

To receive **course credit**, LAs enroll in **Chem. 183**, a Teaching Assistant course for undergrads. You will not be responsible for writing quizzes or grading lab reports / quizzes.

Credit / Hours:

- 1) **2 units:** The LA helps students during **two** Chem. 1AL lab sections (2.5 hours for each lab) and attends the LA meeting Friday 11- 11:50 AM, Phelps 1160.
- 2) **1 unit:** The LA helps students during **one** Chem. 1AL lab section (2.5 hours) and attends the LA meeting Friday 11- 11:50 AM, Phelps 1160.

LA Qualifications:

- 1) Completed Chem. 1A, 1B and 1C (or equivalent) with a minimum GPA of 3.2
- 2) Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- 2) Enjoy helping other students learn how to problem solve in the lab
- 3) Interested in being a learning assistant

LA Application:

Please answer the questions below and send your answers via email to Dr. Van Koppen learning-assist@chem.ucsb.edu

- 1) Please indicate your name and perm number.
- 2) What are your future educational and career plans?
- 3) Describe your abilities, character, and potential to succeed as a learning assistant.
- 4) Discuss any work or volunteer experiences that will help you succeed in helping students learn how to problem solve.
- 5) If you have a TA who could recommend you please indicate their name and the lab course.