

Hybrid Chemistry Laboratory Classes for Spring 2021

The Department of Chemistry sought and received permission to run some chemistry laboratory sections for Chem 2100, 3512, and 3522 in a hybrid mode in Spring 2021. That means students will perform some laboratory experiments online, and others hands-on.

If you were enrolled in one of these classes as of 12/3/2020, your section has been converted into a hybrid course. That means you will have to attend laboratory on the time and day specified in CUNYFirst. The time and date required for the laboratory did not change when the section changed from online to hybrid. You can check your schedule if you have forgotten what times and days were listed when you registered for the course.

If you do not want to take a hybrid laboratory, you can opt out and take a purely virtual laboratory. Please read the instructions below in the section labeled Online vs. Hybrid Laboratory.

Laboratory sections will be divided into 3 cohorts of 6-8 students each, with size depending on the laboratory space. Beginning Friday, February 19, each cohort will come to campus for a hands-on experiment once every 3 weeks. You will be told which specific weeks you are required to attend after the semester has started.

Students will maintain social distancing throughout the laboratory, and you will be required to wear a face mask and gloves as well as safety goggles. The department will provide you with these items. You will also have access to hand sanitizer and alcohol wipes to clean your skin and wipe down your bench space and the equipment you will work with. At no point during the semester will you work with a partner.

Each cohort will perform 4 hands-on experiments during the semester, with the remaining experiments for the semester performed asynchronously online.

Below are the answers to some specific questions you might have.

Do I need to come to campus? You will need to come to campus for your laboratory period for some weeks during the semester. Your lecture and recitation section will remain online, and you will not have to come to campus.

What times and days do I need to come to campus? Check your registration in CUNYFirst. Your assigned laboratory time and date are given. Your laboratory section has a letter code ending in "B" (e.g. M6AB). These times and dates have not changed since the courses first became available, and were listed when you registered.

Does this affect my class? This document is intended to help students in Chem 2100, 3512, and 3522, which are affected by this change. Other hybrid courses for Spring 21 include Chem 3415, 3420, and 4620; if you have questions about those classes, you should e-mail the course instructor (listed in

CUNYFirst). No other classes are affected. Chem 1007, 1100, and 2500 will only have online laboratories this semester.

Why is the hands-on laboratory experience important? The Department of Chemistry petitioned to offer the hybrid laboratory out of concern that students who did not receive hands-on laboratory experience would be unprepared to succeed in future coursework. There is considerable overlap between the skills required to work in a laboratory setting and a clinical one, so the concern is relevant for those seeking to prepare for both scientific careers and for medical professional programs.

Online vs. Hybrid Laboratory

I am not sure it is safe for myself or a member of my family for me to attend. Where can I get advice on that? Safety is of paramount importance to the department, and a description of the precautions taken is given at the start of this document. Students should contact their physician for advice on the medical risks of attendance.

Do I need to document a medical or other condition that justifies my decision to take the course online? No. You will not be asked for any such documentation and should not volunteer that information.

When do I have to decide whether I want to take the course online? The department can guarantee access to an online section provided a student is on the waiting list for an online section by January 4. After that date, you can register for an online section if there are openings, but students who put their names on the waiting list after that time are not guaranteed a seat.

I cannot/do not want to attend laboratory in person. What should I do? If you do not want to attend a hybrid laboratory, you can register for an online-only section. Check CUNYFirst, and look for a section labeled "Online" as opposed to hybrid. Register for that section. If the section is full, put your name on the waiting list.

The online-only laboratory section is full. Put your name on the waiting list for that section. We will make arrangements for every student on the waiting list by Jan 4 to take the laboratory solely online, but for the moment you need to just put your name on the waiting list.

(Chem 2100 only) I cannot register for the online laboratory section for Chem 2100 because the given recitation time conflicts with my schedule. If you cannot register for the Chem 2100 recitation due to a scheduling conflict, please submit a "Virtual Laboratory Request" form through this [site](#). Make sure to send it to the email addresses specified. Remain registered for your current Chem 2100 section, and you will be contacted by a member of the Chemistry Department to make arrangements.

Attending the Laboratory

When do I have to start attending laboratory? The first laboratory sections will begin on Friday, Feb 19. If you have a Friday laboratory class, you will begin that day. Otherwise, your section will begin meeting the following week. Remember that only 1/3 of students will attend in a given week.

How often do I have to come to laboratory? You will need to come every third week for a period of 12 weeks. You will perform 4 experiments during that time.

Can I choose which weeks I attend? No, given the large number of students involved that is impractical. You should plan to be available every week at the time specified. Your instructor will give you your cohort assignment after the start of the semester, at which point you will know which specific dates you need to attend.

What happens if I miss a laboratory? Policies for missed/make-up laboratories will be laid out after the start of the semester. However, you should not register for the hybrid laboratory unless you are reasonably certain you will be able to attend all sessions.

I want to take a hybrid laboratory, but it is hard for me to come to campus at the time given. Can I come at another time? You can drop your current section and register for (or put your name on the waiting list for) any other hybrid section.

Responding to COVID-19

What happens if case numbers in Brooklyn and/or NYC continue to rise? Brooklyn College will continue to comply with city and state guidelines. If cases increase to the point where the city calls for a shutdown, in-person classes will be cancelled and students will be given online laboratories until the campus is opened again.

What happens if a student or instructor tests positive for COVID-19? Students will be expected to notify their instructor if they begin showing symptoms of COVID-19 or receive a positive test result for the virus. All students in the cohort will be notified and advised to quarantine. Students in other cohorts will hold class at the usual time with a substitute instructor.

If you have additional questions, please contact Ms. Margarita Rice (margarita.rice@brooklyn.cuny.edu) and Ms. Virginia Tolone-Wilson (vtwilson@brooklyn.cuny.edu) in the Department of Chemistry.