

Welcome to General Chemistry!

To help you get a strong start to the course, here are some resources and useful information.

Technical and Procedural Details:

- **You will need to have reliable and regular internet access** – Because this is an online course, just about everything happens online. Take a little time to find some “just in case” resources like a coffee shop or your local library. You’re also expected to be comfortable with common word processing and spreadsheet programs like Word and Excel.
- **Communication will be through your official MSUM email address and D2L Brightspace** –I will typically post all class announcements in D2L, so you should see those if you check in to D2L regularly, but individual communication will be via your mnstate.edu email.
- **Class participation and presence is required** – Although there is no face-to-face meeting time for this class, your “attendance” is still required. Expect to check in to D2L Brightspace *at least* every other day.
- If you have technical problems, contact the **MSUM Help Desk** at support.mnstate.edu, support@mnstate.edu, or call 218-477-2603. Jot that contact info down somewhere in case you don’t have internet when you need help.

Your responsibilities in this course:

- **You have the power, use it wisely** – Online courses require some degree of independent learning and self-motivation. Your level of participation will determine your outcome.
- **You should be able to communicate effectively through reading and writing** – Because many students are not in the same zip code as me (or even the same time zone!), most of our communication will be in writing. That doesn’t mean every word you write has to be Pulitzer-Prize-worthy prose, but we can work on that.
- **Pay attention to the schedule** – Your assignments (quizzes, discussion participation, etc) are due at regular intervals, so be sure to map out your time and be ready. Late assignments will lose points very quickly.
- **Manage your time** – Besides the schedule of assignments, you will have to commit a few hours per week to be successful in this course to read, work on practice problems, and reflect upon the material we are learning. Schedule specific time to do that and protect that schedule.
- **Be positive and respectful** – Always remember that on the other side of the screen there is a real person. Follow the example of our friend the proton and always be positive.
- **Be open and curious** – Chemistry is happening everywhere, every minute of every day; be curious about it. The most important question a scientist can ask (and *you are a scientist*) is “Why?”, and the most important answer a scientist can give is “I don’t know, yet”. Be curious. Be open to new information, and new knowledge, and new ideas. They are happening all around you right now!

My responsibilities in this course:

- **Being available** –That doesn’t mean I’ll answer your email at 3am (although sometimes I might...), but I will be generally available Monday-Friday from ~9am to ~8pm and intermittently on the weekends.
- **Being responsive** – I will make every reasonable attempt to respond to emails within 24 hours.
- **Being present** – I will be participating in the discussions regularly, but don’t wait for me to chime in... there are people in this class who will give great responses before I have a chance to read the posts.
- **Being positive and respectful** – I know that every one of you can learn chemistry. It may be harder for some, but everyone struggles with some concept in class. I want you all to succeed to the best of your ability, and I will be cheering for you every step of your journey.
- **Being open and curious** – I have never taught a class in which I didn’t learn something from a student. Our experiences and expertises are diverse and fascinating, and I will always be open to learning from *you* as we travel through this wonderful world of chemistry.