

FALL 2026

FIRST YEAR FAQ

CHEM 1210

General Chemistry I

Professor: Dr. Mary Sheppard
(she/her)



Note: Refer to the Course Outline provided on Brightspace for more information.

Textbook

How do I buy my textbook?

Choose one of the following options:

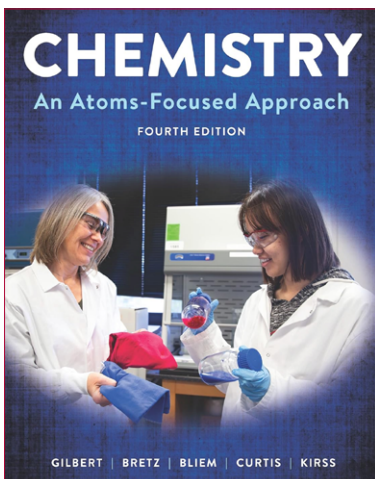
1. Recommended:
E Textbook access for 720 days
(includes required SmartWork

homework): \$122 at shop.smu.ca/home.

Click "Select Course" from the top menu. Select the term, and then Chem 1210.

Once you purchase the e-book, you will receive an email with an access code. You must redeem this access code at <https://shop.smu.ca/redeem-access-code> to obtain a new code to use on the Norton ebook platform..

2. Print Copy: You can buy the print soft cover bound textbook including SmartWork at the campus bookstore for \$143. If you buy elsewhere, match the following ISBN and ensure SmartWork is included. Hardcover ISBN 978-1-324-10490-2.



What if I have the textbook and I just need to buy SmartWork? It is available at shop.smu.ca/home for \$55. Choose SmartWork 5 Access without Ebook.

Should I buy the Student Solutions Manual? No. These solutions will be provided on our course Brightspace site for you.

What if I have an earlier edition of the textbook? If you don't have a code, then earlier editions will not suffice. In addition to the required SmartWork homework, all practice problems and readings refer to the fourth edition.

Lab Manual

The Chemistry 1210 Laboratory Manual 2026-27 is required (about \$3 at the bookstore, ask at the checkout desk). A small (3-hole) binder is recommended so you don't lose the pages. A pen is required for recording lab data; a hard cover lab notebook is not required.



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Course Notes (Recommended)

A full package of course notes is sold at the bookstore for about \$5, and the PDF file is on the lecture Brightspace. All lecture notes are included with space to write solutions as they are solved in class. Having the whole set available digitally or printed at the start of term will save time later and keep you organized for studying. Course notes are not a replacement for the textbook which is a valuable resource for practice problems, worked examples, and extra explanations..



Calculators

What type of calculator do I need?

A scientific non-graphical calculator that is easy to do exponents and y^x functions. The Casio fx-991 or Casio fx-300 work well. Other models are fine as well. **You cannot use your cell phone as a calculator!**

Classes

When is the first lab/class? The first **lecture** will be September 9 or 10 depending on your registered section. **Labs** start the week of September 14-18. There are no Chem 1210 labs September 9-11.

What if I miss a lab experiment or lecture quiz/exam? Within 48 hours fill out a [Declaration of Extenuating Circumstances form](#) (also linked on Brightspace). With this form you might be able to attend another lab session or do a makeup midterm exam. No makeup quizzes or assignments are allowed.

WHMIS

You must take a safety course to become familiar with the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS). Instructions on how to access the online WHMIS course/quiz are on the lab Brightspace site. 70% is required to pass. The deadline is noon on September 25, 2026.

I just took WHMIS at work, do I have to take it again?

Yes! You have to take the version of WHMIS that we offer for Science students at Saint Mary's University.

I took WHMIS last year at SMU, do I have to take it again?

It depends! If you completed WHMIS in 2026, it is still valid and your grade will be automatically visible to your lab instructor. If you completed WHMIS in 2025 or before, you will need to retake it.

Can I just skip WHMIS?

No! Safety is important, and without WHMIS, starting September 25, 2026, you will not be allowed to attend your CHEM 1210 labs—resulting in zeroes on lab experiments/reports.

Lab Coats

Lab requires a properly fitting lab coat that can be fully buttoned or snapped and extends to the knees. They are available at the bookstore (\$17) in sizes from XS to 4XL. If you require a size that is not on the shelf, please ask at the bookstore customer service desk.



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Safety Glasses

Chemical safety glasses must be worn in the lab at all times. The types sold at the bookstore are shown here; please read comments and try on glasses to ensure a good fit. Glasses that slide down or extend far out from your face are not a good fit.

You must buy option A if you have prescription glasses. Contact lenses are not allowed in lab.



A. Pyramex Solo (\$4.55)

For use over prescription glasses or for people with average/larger-sized faces without prescriptions glasses.



B. Pyramex Safety Glasses (\$4.65)

For people who don't wear prescription glasses. Fits smaller to average faces.

Choose the non-tinted option for better colour clarity.

What if I have safety glasses from a job or school?

They are sufficient only if they have the CSA standard Z94.3 written on the frame and have coverage at the top and wrap-around coverage on the sides. Confirm with the Lab Coordinator (Dr. Mary Sheppard) if you are unsure.

What if I have prescription glasses or side shields?

Side shields on prescription glasses are not sufficient coverage. You must still wear safety glasses over top of your prescription glasses. If you know you will have a career in chemistry or biology, prescription safety glasses are a good investment since they are much more comfortable (but they may be expensive). Contact your optometrist about options and get approval from the Lab Coordinator (Dr. Sheppard) before purchasing.

Many questions about the course will be answered during the first lecture class and in the full course outline to be posted on Brightspace in September. If you have questions after the first class, email: Mary.Sheppard@smu.ca



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