Chemistry 399: Lab Research Prob/Chem

Chemistry 399 is our independent research course and, thus, has no syllabus routinely required. Each research group sets their own individual expectations (see following example from Dr. Webb’s research group) in addition to the Departmental expectations which are: (1) Mandatory attendance at the Department of Chemistry safety training held at the beginning of each semester; (2) 1 credit of 399 is equivalent to 3 hours/week in the laboratory; (3) All Honors/Thesis students must submit a written report or thesis at the end of their research projects. A literature review is required as part of the report or thesis. Interim semester reports are encouraged; and (4) Students are highly encouraged to present their research results at a local, regional, and/or national meeting. If a student presents research results at a meeting as a result of research mentoring by of our department faculty members, the department will cover meeting registration fees, transportation, housing, and meals.

Expectations for Undergraduate Research Students (Chemistry 399) in the Research Group of Dr. Cathleen Webb

Chem 299/399 Research Students

I am very pleased that you have decided to join our group, either as a new student or as a returning student. Practical experience in research in one of the most rewarding experiences a student can have as an undergraduate. I believe that you will also find that it is also one of the most fun experiences you will have. The friendships and professional relationships you develop in this group will last a lifetime. Certainly, working with undergraduate research students is one of my most enjoyable activities as a faculty member.

You will find that our group routinely meets every other week. The scheduled time each semester is what fits almost everyone’s schedules best. I expect you to attend as frequently as possible. Please make sure to give me your schedule and contact information as soon as possible.

Before you can begin work each semester, you must attend (and have signed in to) our Departmental safety training. **This is absolutely critical and mandatory.** If you cannot make the scheduled times, an alternate time at 7:00 am in the third week of the semester is offered. I am absolutely rigid about this.

You are expected to work 3 hours a week for every credit signed up for. For new students, a 1-page report on activities is required at the end of the semester. For returning students, I will accept a presentation at a local, regional, or national meeting in lieu of a report. If you do not make a presentation, a three-page semester report is expected. For Honors/Thesis students, an interim semester written report is required even if you are also making a presentation. Your thesis or honors report must include a literature review of your topic. I also meet privately with Honors/Thesis students every other week.
Our group tends to travel to the following conferences. If your work is accepted at a conference, all of your (normal) expenses will be covered (registration fees, meals, transportation, and housing). Our most frequented meetings are:

Fall: GSA, SERMACS, KAS,  Spring: ACS, Sigma Xi

Typically, I expect a student to give a poster once or twice, before making an oral presentation at a meeting. If you have any questions about this, don’t hesitate to ask me or one of the “old-timers.”

Kate