

## **B.A. Junior Year – Fall Semester Lab**

### **CEM 425 Chemistry Communication and Professional Development**

**Description:** Written and oral communication skills for entering and participating in the chemistry profession and post-undergraduate programs.

**Credit:** 3 Credits (Two 80-minute lectures per week)

**Prerequisite:** CEM 262, (CEM 255 or CEM 355), and completion of Tier I writing requirement.

**Restrictions:** Open to BA Chemistry majors or approval of department.

#### **WATER TOPIC ASSIGNMENTS:**

The theme for these assignments is water chemistry and includes trips to visit the local water and wastewater treatment plants. Each student researches a water chemistry topic, then writes a 3-page paper and gives a 10-minute oral presentation on this topic to the class.

#### **LITERATURE TOPIC ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students select and research a chemistry-related topic of interest to them. They write a 10-page paper, give a 20-minute oral presentation, and present a scientific poster on this topic. Each student is assigned a chemistry faculty mentor with whom they meet periodically to receive feedback and guidance on these assignments. Lectures focus on giving presentations, designing effective posters, and using computer programs to create professional figures, tables, citations, and chemical structures.

#### **CAREER WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:**

Presentations focus on communications related to obtaining employment: using on-line resources and networking for finding job opportunities; writing resumes, personal statements, and cover letters; and interviewing skills. Students use on-line resources to find a job posting, then simulate applying for that job by creating a cover letter and a resume that address the requirements of that job.

#### **CAREER DIRECTION PRESENTATIONS:**

A chemistry degree provides the skills necessary to work in a laboratory, but is also an excellent foundation for many other careers. Guest speakers present information about potential future directions including forensic chemistry, law, nursing, education, technical sales, professional careers (*i.e.* medicine, dentistry, pharmacy), industrial bench chemist, and winery/distilled spirits industry.