

# Course Change Request

## New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: 01/14/26 2:26 pm

Viewing: **CHEM 479 : Special Topics in Chemistry**

Last edit: 01/16/26 10:44 am

Changes proposed by: msikowit

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

No

Effective Term: Fall 2026

Subject Code: CHEM - Chemistry

Course Number: 479

Bundled Courses:

Is this course replacing another course? No

Equivalent Courses:

Catalog Title: Special Topics in Chemistry

Banner Title: Special Topics in Chemistry

Will section titles vary by semester? Yes

Credits: 3

Schedule Type: Lecture -Repeatable within the Term

Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: 3

### In Workflow

1. **CHEM Chair**
2. **SC Curriculum Committee**
3. SC Assistant Dean
4. Assoc Provost- Undergraduate
5. Registrar-Courses
6. Banner

### Approval Path

1. 01/14/26 2:40 pm  
Mikell Paige  
(mpaige3):  
Approved for CHEM Chair

**Repeatable:**

May be repeated within term (RT)

**Max Allowable Credits:**

9

**Default Grade Mode:**

Undergraduate Regular

**Recommended Prerequisite(s):**

Permission of the instructor.

**Recommended Corequisite(s):****Required Prerequisite(s) / Corequisite(s) (Updates only):**

CHEM 211 (C or higher) and CHEM 212 (C or higher)

**Registrar's Office Use Only - Required Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):**

And/Or	(	Course/Test Code	Min Grade/Score	Academic Level	)	Concurrency?

**Registration Restrictions (Updates only):****Registrar's Office Use Only - Registration Restrictions:****Field(s) of Study:****Class(es):****Level(s):****Degree(s):****School(s):****Catalog Description:**

Advanced topics in chemistry and biochemistry. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

**Justification:**

What: Creating a new Special topics course for Chemistry.

Why: We do not currently have an undergraduate special topics course. This course will allow us to pilot new courses and/or teach courses that are only going to be offered once or twice total.

**Does this course cover material which crosses into another department?**

No

**Learning Outcomes:**

**Will this course be scheduled as a cross-level cross listed section?**

**Attach Syllabus**

[Template for CHEM 479.pdf](#)

**Additional Attachments**

**Staffing:**

All Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry faculty.

**Relationship to**

**Existing Programs:**

Can be used as upper level elective credit by both BS or BA Chemistry students or chemistry minors.

**Relationship to**

**Existing Courses:**

Most topics will likely require at least general chemistry as a prerequisite and build upon knowledge acquired in prior chemistry courses.

**Have you reached out to the Libraries to determine whether there are adequate resources to support your course? If not, please email Meg Meiman, Associate University Librarian for Learning, Research, and Engagement at mmeiman2@gmu.edu.**

No

**Additional Comments:**

**Reviewer Comments**

Key: 19196

Template for CHEM 479. Update the parts highlighted in yellow.

## CHEM 479: Special Topics in Chemistry Spring 2026

### Contact Information

**Instructor:**

**Email:**

**Office Hours:**

### Course Description

A brief description of the course including an overview of some of the topics that will be covered. The class will include assignments, exams, projects, etc.

### Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will:

List the factual material, characteristics, qualities, abilities, or competencies you expect the student to have mastered at the end of the course.

### Prerequisite

Grade of C or better in CHEM 211 and CHEM 212, plus

### Textbook

List required/ recommended material for the course

### Grading Policy

Include the grade composition information. Regular grading scale A-F will be used.

### Additional Policies and Course Information

Include any other additional relevant policies or course information here.



## Common Policies Affecting All Courses at George Mason University

Updated August 2024

These four policies affect students in all courses at George Mason University. This Course Policy Addendum must be made available to students in all courses (see [Catalog Policy AP.2.5](#)).

**Additional policies** affecting this course, and additional resources or guidance regarding these policies, may be provided to students by the instructor.

### Academic Standards

Academic Standards exist to promote authentic scholarship, support the institution's goal of maintaining high standards of academic excellence, and encourage continued ethical behavior of faculty and students to cultivate an educational community which values integrity and produces graduates who carry this commitment forward into professional practice.

As members of the George Mason University community, we are committed to fostering an environment of trust, respect, and scholarly excellence. Our academic standards are the foundation of this commitment, guiding our behavior and interactions within this academic community. The practices for implementing these standards adapt to modern practices, disciplinary contexts, and technological advancements. Our standards are embodied in our courses, policies, and scholarship, and are upheld in the following principles:

- **Honesty:** Providing accurate information in all academic endeavors, including communications, assignments, and examinations.
- **Acknowledgement:** Giving proper credit for all contributions to one's work. This involves the use of accurate citations and references for any ideas, words, or materials created by others in the style appropriate to the discipline. It also includes acknowledging shared authorship in group projects, co-authored pieces, and project reports.
- **Uniqueness of Work:** Ensuring that all submitted work is the result of one's own effort and is original, including free from self-plagiarism. This principle extends to written assignments, code, presentations, exams, and all other forms of academic work.

Violations of these standards—including but not limited to plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating—are taken seriously and will be addressed in accordance with university policies. The process for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating violations is [outlined in the university's procedures](#). Consequences of violations may include academic sanctions, disciplinary actions, and other measures necessary to uphold the integrity of our academic community.

The principles outlined in these academic standards reflect our collective commitment to upholding the highest standards of honesty, acknowledgement, and uniqueness of work. By adhering to these principles, we ensure the continued excellence and integrity of George Mason University's academic community.

**Student responsibility:** Students are responsible for understanding how these general expectations regarding academic standards apply to each course, assignment, or exam they participate in; students should ask their instructor for clarification on any aspect that is not clear to them.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to upholding the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. Under the administration of University Life, Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. Students can begin the registration process with Disability Services at any time during their enrollment at George Mason University. If you are seeking accommodations, please visit <https://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: [ods@gmu.edu](mailto:ods@gmu.edu). Phone: (703) 993-2474.

**Student responsibility:** Students are responsible for registering with Disability Services and communicating about their approved accommodations with their instructor *in advance* of any relevant class meeting, assignment, or exam.

### **FERPA and Use of GMU Email Addresses for Course Communication**

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) governs the disclosure of [education records for eligible students](#) and is an essential aspect of any course. **Students must use their GMU email account** to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. Instructors will not respond to messages sent from or send messages regarding course content to a non-GMU email address.

**Student responsibility:** Students are responsible for checking their GMU email regularly for course-related information, and/or ensuring that GMU email messages are forwarded to an account they do check.

### **Title IX Resources and Required Reporting**

As a part of George Mason University's commitment to providing a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender in any of its education or employment programs and activities. Accordingly, **all non-confidential employees, including your faculty member, have a legal requirement to report to the Title IX Coordinator, all relevant details obtained directly or indirectly about any incident of Prohibited Conduct** (such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, gender-based stalking, dating/domestic violence). Upon notifying the Title IX Coordinator of possible Prohibited Conduct, the Title IX Coordinator will assess the report and determine if outreach is required. If outreach is required, the individual the report

is about (the “Complainant”) will receive a communication, likely in the form of an email, offering that person the option to meet with a representative of the Title IX office.

For more information about non-confidential employees, resources, and Prohibited Conduct, please see [University Policy 1202](#): Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence. Questions regarding Title IX can be directed to the Title IX Coordinator via email to [TitleIX@gmu.edu](mailto:TitleIX@gmu.edu), by phone at 703-993-8730, or in person on the Fairfax campus in Aquia 373.

**Student opportunity:** If you prefer to speak to someone *confidentially*, please contact one of Mason’s confidential employees in Student Support and Advocacy ([SSAC](#)), Counseling and Psychological Services ([CAPS](#)), Student Health Services ([SHS](#)), and/or the [Office of the University Ombudsperson](#).