

Chemistry 121 Chemistry (Summer) Prep Course

The Chemistry Prep Course (CPC) is an **OPTIONAL**, **but HIGHLY recommended**, refresher for all students enrolled in General Chemistry I (Chem 121). It is available each summer between June and August. **ALL** incoming Chem 121 students should complete the CPC before arriving on campus, and at latest by the deadline of August 31st at 11:59 PM.

The CPC walks students through the basic math and science principles needed for success in Chem 121. It uses a web-based assessment and learning system called ALEKS (Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces). ALEKS not only gauges present knowledge but it also guides additional practice to fill any gaps. Accordingly, the CPC consists of two parts: a knowledge check followed by additional questions (and feedback) generated from any identified knowledge gaps.

Tips for Succeeding with CPC

- ALEKS, the artificial intelligence-based teaching tool behind the CPC, will only teach you information that meets the following criteria: you don't already know it AND you are ready to learn it based on what you know already. Do the CPC carefully and honestly (no guessing!) so that ALEKS will present you with the right amount of material you need.
- ALEKS is web-based and lets you work at your own pace. Stop sessions as needed and start them back up when you can return.
- The initial "knowledge check" will take a total of 60-90 minutes. Working through additional assigned questions (designed to fill in any knowledge gaps) will take longer. It is suggested you begin the CPC at least three weeks before the start of classes to make sure you have plenty of extra time, but it is possible you could finish as quickly as an hour if your basic knowledge is solid.
- Never click the "I don't know" button unless you truly have no idea how to approach a problem. Otherwise, ALEKS might make you review information you don't need.
- Everyone's path through the CPC is different. ALEKS tells you what you need to learn, if anything, and helps you to track your progress in the pie chart learning mode. When you complete the CPC, focus on what you need to know and don't worry about the path your classmates may have taken. Completing any portion of the CPC with outside help or completing any portion of the CPC for someone else is a violation of the **UND Code of Student Life** und.edu/student-affairs/code-of-student-life/.
- Following are some **Frequently Asked Questions** about the CPC and our answers to them. If you still have questions after reviewing these FAQs, please feel free to contact and ask your course instructor. We definitely want to help!

How to Register for the CPC

1. Go to <http://www.aleks.com>
2. Click on "Sign Up Now" (upper left corner of screen)
3. Provide the CPC course code: CR43G-GF9UN
4. Follow the steps to create your account. Note: Your UND Student ID is NOT your Social Security Number. It is a unique seven-digit number.

Why should I complete the CPC?

We want you to succeed in Chem 121. Chem 121 is taught at a fast pace and the instructors assume that all students have a good background in mathematics and some fundamentals of science. It is necessary for you to complete the CPC to ensure that your math and science background is strong enough for you to succeed in Chem 121 and beyond.

Students come into college chemistry with a variety of backgrounds and levels of preparation. It may be necessary for you to refresh yourself with some of the basics before you begin Chem 121. The CPC will not only assess your knowledge of these basics but will also tutor you in those areas where you appear to have gaps. Completing the CPC will **DEFINITELY** help you be prepared for Chem 121, but it is optional and you will not earn any grade for working on it.

What topics does the CPC cover?

- Basic math and algebra
- Basics of scientific measurements – SI Units and unit conversions
- Basics of matter – mass, volume, density, elements names, atomic symbols, and parts of an atom

What happens if I do not achieve 100% in the CPC?

After you take the initial “knowledge check”, you will see a pie graph of your achievement. Hovering over each pie slice will show you how many topics you've mastered, how many you have learned and the remaining topics that need to be learned and then mastered for that category.

If the initial “knowledge check” is not 100%, you should follow the onscreen directions to work in the ALEKS pie and learn the things you need to learn to earn 100%.

As stated above, the CPC is **OPTIONAL but HIGHLY recommended**. If you do not achieve 100% before the beginning of classes or if you decide not to complete the CPC, you are not penalized.

How do I access the CPC?

The CPC is available online at www.aleks.com. Registration information is shown in the box above.

What if I have a technical problem while completing the CPC?

The CPC is delivered entirely within the ALEKS web-based system and its developer provides excellent technical support for this product. Use this link to contact ALEKS technical support: <http://support.aleks.com>. Because the ALEKS system is independent of UND and our Department, we cannot provide you with any but the most basic technical support. Please do not

contact your instructor with ALEKS technical questions without exhausting the ALEKS technical support **FIRST**. However, we want to know if you can't get a problem fixed and we will step in to get you the help you need.

When should I take the CPC?

You should take the CPC as early as you can before the start of the Fall semester. We know from experience that the more you practice in ALEKS, the more you are prepared to begin chemistry and the more likely you are to earn a higher grade by the end of the semester.

How much does the CPC cost?

The CPC is **FREE** for UND students. Once you begin Chem 121, continued use of ALEKS (which is a required part of the course) will cost \$60 for one semester (if you only plan to take Chem 121) or \$75 for two semesters (if you plan to take both Chem 121 & Chem 122)

Who should take the CPC?

The CPC is only intended for students taking Chem 121 during the current fall semester.

What if I have more questions?

Please contact the instructor for your section:

- Section 01, MWF 9 AM: Ms. Shaina Mattingly at shaina.mattingly@und.edu
- Section 02, MWF 11 AM: Dr. Lothar Stahl at lothar.stahl@und.edu
- Section 03, MWF 2 PM: Dr. David Pierce at david.pierce@und.edu
- Section 04, MWF 3 PM: Dr. Jerome Delhommelle at jerome.delhommelle@und.edu

Or our departmental ALEKS expert:

- Mr. Michael Whitney at michael.whitney@und.edu