
Biochemistry I (CHEM326) Spring 2026

Dr. Aimee L. Miller

Lecture: Brossman 102

Mon/Wed/Fri: 10:00 – 10:50 am

Labs: Caputo 225

Mon: 12:00 - 2:50 pm

Tue: 9:00 - 11:50 am

Tue: 1:10 - 4:00 pm (*Dr. Mullen Davis*)

717-871-7414

aimee.miller@millersville.edu

Office Hours: Caputo 325 (*or by appt*)

Mon: 9:00 - 10:00

Tues: 12:00 - 1:00

Wed: 11:00 - 12:00

Fri: 9:00 - 10:00 & 11:00 - 12:00

Course Description

Chemistry 326 provides an introduction to the structure and properties, physical and chemical, of biological compounds (carbohydrates, lipids, nucleic acids, and proteins). Their metabolism and importance in life processes will be introduced. Laboratory studies explore the properties of biological molecules and techniques for their isolation, identification, and qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Prerequisite: CHEM232 or CHEM235 (grade of C- or better)

Course objectives:

The main goal is to understand the relevance of chemical principles within biological systems. Students actively engaged in this course should be able to:

- Integrate the essential chemical characteristics of major types of biochemical molecules with their biological function and metabolic relevance.
 - Describe the key nucleotide and nucleic acid structures and functions and understand the processes responsible for the flow of genetic information within cells.
 - Describe the key features of amino acid and protein structures and understand the major roles played by proteins and enzymes in biochemical pathways.
 - Apply structural and kinetic principles relevant to enzyme reactions and regulation.
 - Describe characteristics of lipids and membranes and recognize their cellular and metabolic roles.
 - Describe sugar structures and understand carbohydrate metabolism in cells for production and storage of energy.
 - Explain the integration of pathways that transform both common and diverse structures to support living systems.
 - Appreciate the dynamic nature of biochemical principles and how ongoing research expands our collective understanding.
 - Develop fundamental hands-on biochemistry laboratory skills, appropriately handle a broad range of biochemical samples and techniques, and accurately analyze, interpret, and report biochemical data.
-

Materials and Supplies

- D2L course access (Millersville University)
 - Achieve Essentials access (Macmillan)
 - E-text suggestions: *Ahern/Rajagopal/Tan* or *Jakubowski/Flatt* (in D2L). Hard copy text suggestions: *Nelson & Cox (Lehninger)*; *Voet, Voet, & Pratt*; *Garrett & Grisham*
 - Laboratory notebook (bound composition book)
-

Course Policies

Course conducted according to all Millersville policies/guidelines (links to full info in D2L).

Class Attendance: Students are responsible for material presented in class or distributed via D2L and MU e-mail. Only work missed for an absence excused based on Millersville's approved guidelines may be made up. Please contact me in advance or as soon as possible to reschedule. Any graded work conducted outside the scheduled time may differ significantly in form and exact content from the in-class version.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to conduct all course work in an honest and ethical manner, consistent with Millersville policy. Cheating on coursework bypasses the learning process and will **NOT** be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will be assigned a score of zero on the work and may be reported.

Participation: Students are expected to come to class prepared to actively participate in the classroom. This includes asking questions, responding to questions, and contributing to activities and discussions in both the classroom and lab. A variety of **learning activities** will be used throughout the semester to promote active participation. Grades will reflect effort and engagement in applying course concepts more than just "right answers." Dialogue and questions about content are encouraged.

Homework: Mastery of chemical principles is developed through practice. In addition to textbook material, opportunities for students to interact with course content will be available online through **Achieve**. This includes both **required homework** and ungraded practice/review problems or activities. Students are encouraged to use diverse resources that are helpful to their learning. To promote use of homework as a learning tool, problems can be worked **repeatedly** to earn full credit. Deadlines will generally be **10 pm, Thursdays**. Late assignments can be completed for partial credit (-10% per day).

Peer Learning: There are Chemistry Peer Learning times scheduled for the semester that may provide a useful mechanism for working on biochemistry concepts, homework, and lab analysis. While the official chemistry tutors will primarily be serving general and organic chemistry students, all students are invited to participate in this shared learning structure. Students looking to collaborate on studying are encouraged to attend, explore concepts, and share knowledge with others in that context.

Cooperative Environment: Students are expected to be respectfully and actively engaged in the classroom. Questions and discussion are encouraged. Repeated disruptive behavior (like tardiness, chatting, or cell phone noise/use) may be cause for dismissal from class and may affect final grade assignments. Students with special concerns are encouraged to speak with me or take advantage of student resources available on campus, including the Office of Learning Services, the Tutoring Center, or the Counseling Center.

- *Millersville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires faculty members to report incidents of sexual violence shared by students to the University's Title IX Coordinator. The only exceptions to the faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project.*

Faculty members are obligated to report sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred, to the person designated in the University [Protection of Minors policy](#).

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at: www.millersville.edu/titleix

- *If you have a disability that requires accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please discuss your preferences for related strategies with me as soon as possible so that I can support your success in an informed manner. Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.*

Laboratory: Laboratory provides a place where learning is enhanced by application and hands-on skills are developed. Planned projects provide experience with basic techniques relevant to understanding and working with biological molecules and samples. Students MUST complete every experiment. Please keep your instructor informed of any special circumstances (like allergies or pregnancy) that might require alternate experimental arrangements. Students are expected to respect and follow all safety instructions given in lab. If an excused absence conflicts with your scheduled lab work, please contact your instructor as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements.

Grading

Lecture	Homework & Learning Activities	14 %
	Exams	46 %
	Final Exam	18 %
Lab	Notebook/Reports	22 %

NOTE: You must earn at least 60% in the lecture portion to pass Chem326. Your final grade will be assigned based on the combined lecture and lab scores.

Letter Grade Correlation

Grade	%	A	93.0 - 100.0	A-	90.0 - 92.9
B+	87.0 - 89.9	B	83.0 - 86.9	B-	80.0 - 82.9
C+	77.0 - 79.9	C	73.0 - 76.9	C-	70.0 - 72.9
D+	67.0 - 69.9	D	63.0 - 66.9	D-	60.0 - 62.9
F	< 60.0				

Lecture Schedule (tentative)

Topic Order:

Foundations of Biochemistry
Water and its Impact on Biochemistry
Amino Acids, Peptides & Proteins
Protein Structure & Function
Enzymes
Nucleotides & Nucleic Acids
Lipids, Membranes & Transport
Carbohydrates
Metabolism Principles
Glycolysis, Gluconeogenesis & Pentose Phos Path
Citric Acid/TCA Cycle
Electron Transport Chain & Oxidative Phosphorylation

Testing Schedule:

Test 1: Fri, Feb 20

Test 2: Fri, Mar 20

Test 3: Fri, Apr 17

Final Exam: Thur, May 7; 8:00 – 10:00 am
(including comprehensive content)

Laboratory Policies

- Students **MUST** complete every lab. Please notify the lab instructor if you have any special circumstances (allergies, pregnancy, etc.) that might require alternate lab arrangements.
- Students are expected to respect and follow all safety instructions given in lab, including proper attire and waste disposal.
- Students are expected to access lab information via D2L. This will provide a mechanism for contact and distribution of information or representative data, if necessary. (*Your lab instructor will provide printed protocols used to complete each experiment.*)
- Bound notebooks **MUST** hold all experimental work. Please refer to the separate **Lab Syllabus** from your instructor for more detailed instructions regarding expectations for lab work and notebooks.
- Late submissions may incur penalties of 10% per day.

Lab Evaluation:

Each experiment will include:

- Weekly Lab Quiz: Includes questions based on background material for upcoming lab and/or interpretation of completed lab. Unlimited attempts in D2L completed **before 8 am Mondays**.
- Notebook: Record all data & observations directly into your notebook during lab. Complete other written information related to the experiment. Turn in notebook to crate by instructor's office **according to instructor's deadline in lab syllabus**.
- Post-Lab File: Any data analysis, graphing, photos, etc. completed electronically should be collected into a single pdf and submitted in D2L **by the same deadline as notebook**.

Laboratory Schedule (tentative)

<i>Jan 19 – 20</i>	<i>MLK Week: No Labs Meet</i>
Jan 26 – 27	Check-In & Solutions, Dilutions, and Spectrophotometry
Feb 2 – 3	Buffers. pH, and pKa
Feb 9 – 10	Amino Acid Properties
Feb 16 – 17	Native Protein Gel
Feb 23 – 24	Protein Chromatography
Mar 2 – 3	Enzyme Kinetics
<i>Mar 9 – 10</i>	<i>Spring Break Week: No Labs Meet</i>
Mar 16 – 17	SDS-PAGE (begin Western)
Mar 23 – 24	Western Blot (complete) & Protein Assay (calculations)
Mar 30 – 31	Protein Assays (experimental)
Apr 6 – 7	Nucleic Acid Structures
Apr 13 – 14	Soap/Lipids
Apr 20 – 21	Carbohydrates
Apr 27 – 28	Respiration & Check-Out
<i>May 4 – 5</i>	<i>Final Exam Week: No Labs Meet</i>
