2025-26 SCS ADVISING SYLLABUS

SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL SCIENCES ACADEMIC ADVISING

https://scs.illinois.edu/academics/advising

scs-advising@illinois.edu

WHO IS MY ADVISOR?

School of Chemical Sciences academic advisors work with current majors in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering (ChBE), Chemistry (Chem), and CS+Chemistry. Every student is assigned an academic advisor based on the first letter of their last name. Your assigned advisor will work with you throughout your undergraduate career in SCS at Illinois.

Last names A-G

WOLALI DEDO

wdedo@illinois.edu

217-333-7390

105 Noyes Lab

Last names H-N

HANNAH MATHWICH

mathwich@illinois.edu

217-300-1565

105 Noyes Lab

Last names O-Z

TODD SPINNER

spinner@illinois.edu

217-300-3388

105 Noyes Lab

HOW DO I SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT?

You can schedule a 30-minute in-person or virtual advising appointment on weekdays (Mondays – Fridays) between 8:00 am-12 pm and 1-5 pm through Handshake. https://illinois.joinhandshake.com/login

EXPRESS ADVISING https://go.illinois.edu/scsexpress

During the fall and spring semesters, we also offer in-person **Express Advising**. This is first-come, first-served advising for quick questions, like resolving a registration error or making a change to a class. You should schedule an appointment for bigger questions, like course planning, changing majors, or creating a degree completion plan.

FALL 2025 EXPRESS ADVISING SCHEDULE (105 Noyes Lab)

Monday – 1:30 to 2:30 pm
Tuesday – 10:30 to 11:30 am
Wednesday - 1:30 to 2:30 pm
Thursday - 1:30 to 2:30 pm
Friday - 10:30 to 11:30 am

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ACADEMIC ADVISING

As academic advisors, our role is to guide you through your academic, professional, and personal experiences while you are a ChBE, Chem, or CS+Chem major at Illinois. We will listen to you with an open mind and provide sound advice so that you can make confident, well-informed decisions about your undergraduate career. In particular, we aim to:

- **Create a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for all students.**
- **Offer recommendations and guidance** for major, General Education, and elective courses based on your unique interests, needs, and goals.
- **Help you develop a holistic and achievable academic plan** for your time at Illinois that includes coursework and other experiences like study abroad, research, service, and/or leadership.
- **Ensure that you are familiar with the tools needed to understand degree requirements and campus policies** such as:

  Unofficial degree audits – to track degree completion

  Course Explorer – to identify General Education and other classes

  Academic Catalog – to learn more about other majors, minors, and certificates

  Academic timelines and calendars

  Transferology – to confirm whether a course taken at another institution will transfer
- **Connect you with relevant campus and community resources.**
- **Provide timely, accurate information** about academic requirements, policies, and procedures.
- **Keep your academic and personal records confidential** in accordance with FERPA.

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR ADVISING EXPERIENCE

- **Complete at least one academic advising appointment every semester during your time at Illinois.** You are required to meet with us once a semester for your first year at Illinois; we recommend you continue to meet with us to ensure that you're reaching your academic, professional, and personal goals and staying on track with your degree requirements.
- **Come to your advising appointments on time and prepared.** Run a degree audit to see what courses you need. Look up classes that you may want to take. Think about your short and long-term academic, personal, and professional goals. Write down any questions you have about degree requirements, unclear policies, academic difficulties, or how to achieve your goals. *If you're unsure of anything, please ask us!*
- **Communicate regularly and honestly with your advisor about your interests, strengths, questions, and concerns.** We can only advise on what you choose to share with us.

- **Take ownership of your decisions.** We are here to provide guidance so that you can make informed decisions; we cannot make decisions for you.

- **Check your official university email at least once a day.** This is the main way that professors and advisors will contact you. You should also read the weekly SCS Advising Newsletter for reminders and resources targeted to SCS students.

2025-26 ACADEMIC & ADVISING CALENDAR

FALL 2025	
DATE	**EVENT / DEADLINE**
AUG 22	Incoming first year students: Holds removed, students can make changes to their Fall 2025 schedule **Check with your advisor before making changes to your schedule**
AUG 25	First day of instruction for full semester & first 8 week classes
AUG 25 – SEPT 8	Add deadline advising: Please visit with us during Express Advising or schedule an appointment if you need to make changes to your fall schedule
SEPT 1	**LABOR DAY – no classes**
SEPT 8	Deadline to add a full semester class in Fall 2025 **We don't recommend adding a full semester class after the first 5 days**
Early OCT – Mid-NOV	Schedule an advising appointment to discuss classes for Spring 2026
OCT 17	Deadline to elect Credit/No Credit, Grade Replacement, or drop a full semester class **Speak with your SCS advisor before dropping a class; there is no guarantee you can drop a full-semester class after this date.**
OCT 20	Time ticket information available for Spring 2026
OCT 27	Holds placed on students who have not completed mandatory advising
OCT 31	Deadline to withdraw from university and all classes and receive a 40% refund
NOV 3	Priority registration begins for Spring 2026
NOV 22 – 30	**FALL BREAK – no classes**
DEC 10	Last day of instruction
DEC 11	**READING DAY – no classes, no final exams**
DEC 12 – 18	Final Exams (weekdays only)

SPRING 2026	
DATE	**EVENT / DEADLINE**
JAN 20	First day of instruction for full semester & first 8 week classes
JAN 20– FEB 2	Add deadline advising: Please visit with us during Express Advising or schedule an appointment if you need to make changes to your fall schedule
FEB 2	Deadline to add a full semester class in Spring 2023 **We don't recommend adding a full semester class after the first 5 days**
Mid-FEB – Late MARCH	Schedule advising appointment to discuss classes for Spring 2023
MARCH 13	Deadline to elect Credit/No Credit, Grade Replacement, or drop a full semester class **Speak with your SCS advisor before dropping a class; there is no guarantee you can drop a full semester class after this date.**
MARCH 14 – 22	**SPRING BREAK – no classes**
MARCH 23	Time ticket information available for Summer & Fall 2026
MARCH 27	Holds placed on students who have not completed mandatory advising
APRIL 3	Deadline to withdraw from university and all classes and receive a 40% refund
APRIL 6	Priority registration begins for Summer & Fall 2026
MAY 6	Last day of instruction
MAY 7	READING DAY – no classes, no final exams
MAY 8 – 14	Final Exams (weekdays only)

NO CLASS IMPORTANT ACADEMIC/ADVISING DEADLINE

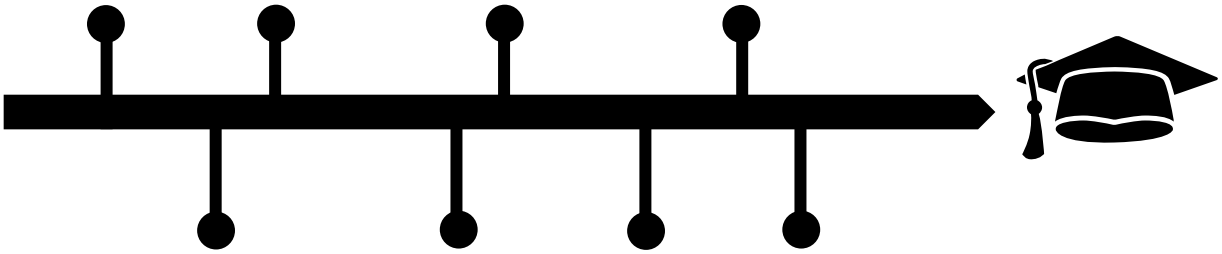
View the full academic calendar at the Registrar's site (https://registrar.illinois.edu/academic-calendars/)

NEED A DIGITAL COPY OF THE ADVISING SYLLABUS?

FOUR YEAR TIMELINE

SCS Advisors and SCS Career Services professionals are here to help you with all of these steps!

FIRST YEAR TASKS	
• Send in all AP scores and dual enrollment classes from high school • Schedule mandatory advising appointments with your assigned SCS academic advisor • Know how to run and read a degree audit • Visit with your professors and TAs during office hours • Learn about campus academic resources – CARE, OMSA, DRES, Writers Workshop, others • Join at least 1 professional (ACS, AIChE, others) and/or personal interest RSO • Complete your profile on Handshake@Illinois • Schedule a resume review with SCS Career Services • Pre-health: Schedule an appointment with Health Professions Advising • Pre-law: Attend a pre-law 101 session • Identify four career and academic skills you want to develop at Illinois • Reflect on what you've enjoyed most about your first year and what you've learned about yourself	
SKILLS TO KNOW	How to schedule appointments with SCS advising and career services; running and understanding your degree audit; effectively using Course Explorer to find classes; adding, dropping, and registering for classes on your own; how to use resources to achieve academic success
SECOND YEAR TASKS	
• Create a holistic academic and degree completion plan with your academic advisor • Determine courses of interest outside of your major – double majors, minors, certificates, electives, and technical electives • Keep track of your academic and degree progress • Seek out and apply for internship, research, shadowing, volunteering, and/or study abroad opportunities • Stay consistently involved in your RSOs • Explore ways to be involved on campus: RSO leadership, tutoring, TAing, being an RA • Update your resume and have it reviewed • Attend at least 1 career or professional fair or workshop • Reflect on your progress developing the career and academic skills you identified in year 1	
SKILLS TO KNOW	How to draft a degree completion plan and track your degree progress; writing an effective resume and cover letter; how to use Handshake to search for internship and other opportunities; how to use resources to help with job, research, and other applications



THIRD YEAR TASKS

- Check-in with your academic advisor about your degree plan, requirements, and goals
- Continue to build meaningful relationships with professors/instructors
- Obtain or continue leadership positions on campus
- Identify which companies, career fields, or graduate programs you're most interested in
- Attend campus career fairs, information sessions, and workshops
- Apply for internship and/or research experiences
- Complete a practice interview with SCS Career Services
- Plan for any necessary pre-professional exams (GRE, LSAT, MCAT, etc.)

SKILLS TO KNOW	How to search for careers and/or graduate programs; how to interview well; requirements and timelines for taking professional exams; best practices for requesting references and recommendation letters

FOURTH YEAR TASKS

- Confirm your remaining degree requirements with your academic advisor
- Analyze how you've developed your skillset through your academic, professional, and personal experiences at Illinois
- Have your resume, cover letter, and personal statements reviewed by SCS Career Services
- Attend career fairs, network with others, and apply for full-time jobs or graduate programs
- Apply to graduate after you register for your last semester of classes
- Sign up for university/college commencement and departmental convocation
- Report your next destination (job, graduate school, other) to SCS

SKILLS TO KNOW	How to articulate to others what you've learned from your academic, professional, and/or co-curricular experiences as an undergraduate; writing effective job or graduate school applications

For a more detailed timeline for career and graduate school preparation, visit the SCS Career Services website: https://scs.illinois.edu/academics/careers/undergraduates

GUIDE TO SCS AND CAMPUS RESOURCES

TUTORING & ACADEMIC RESOURCES		
NEED	**RESOURCE / OFFICE**	**WEBSITE**
Drop-in tutoring or exam review sessions for Math, Chemistry, Physics, and other STEM courses	Center for Academic Resources in Engineering (CARE)	http://care.engineering.illinois.edu/
Regular 1:1 tutoring for Chemistry, Math, and other topics (language, Economics, etc.)	Jeffries Center Tutoring & Instructional Services	https://jeffriescenter.illinois.edu/academic-service-programs
Drop-in and virtual tutoring for CHEM 101, 102, 103, 104, & 105	Chemistry Learning Center	https://chemistry.illinois.edu/clc
Assistance and tutoring for core CHBE classes	Shell Tutoring	https://chbe.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate/tutoring
Assistance with MATH 112, 115, 220, & 231 and STAT 212 & 400	Math/Stats Student Support Center	https://publish.illinois.edu/mathstat-ssc/
Help with brainstorming and writing papers	Writers Workshop	https://writersworkshop.illinois.edu/
Help finding opportunities to study abroad	LAS International Programs	https://las.illinois.edu/academics/international
	Int'l Programs in Engineering (IPENG)	https://students.grainger.illinois.edu/ipeng/home/
CAREER & PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE		
NEED	**RESOURCE / OFFICE**	**WEBSITE**
Help with resumes, cover letters, and personal statements; searching for internships and jobs; learning what you can do with an SCS major	SCS Career Services	http://careers.scs.illinois.edu/

Assistance with exploring careers outside of SCS	The Career Center	https://www.careercenter.illinois.edu/
Help preparing for a professional health program	Pre-Health Advising (at The Career Center)	https://www.careercenter.illinois.edu/instructable/pre-health-illinois
Guidance on preparing for law school	Pre-Law Advising	http://www.prelaw.illinois.edu/
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES		
NEED	**OFFICE**	**WEBSITE**
Help with adjusting to college, managing anxiety, speaking with someone confidentially	The Counseling Center	https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/
Any medical or health need	McKinley Health Services	https://mckinley.illinois.edu/
Making sure that you're receiving any necessary academic accommodations	Disability Resources & Educational Services (DRES)	https://www.disability.illinois.edu/
Finding your community on campus	Cultural & Resource Centers	https://oiir.illinois.edu/our-centers
Questions about financial aid and scholarships	Office of Student Financial Aid	https://osfa.illinois.edu/
Questions about billing	University Student Financial Services & Cashier Operations (USFSCO)	https://paymybill.uillinois.edu/
SELECTED SCS-RELATED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS		
American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE)		http://scs.illinois.edu/aiche/
American Chemical Society (ACS)		https://acs.chemistry.illinois.edu/
Find more Chemistry-related student organizations online at: https://chemistry.illinois.edu/resources/student-organizations		
Find more Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering student organizations online at: https://chbe.illinois.edu/academics/student-organizations		

COMMONLY USED TERMS

Class Schedule: Schedule of all classes offered in a given semester. Students can check the Class Schedule to find key information about a course – when it is, where it is, what it's about, who's teaching it, and whether it counts as a General Education course. The Class Schedule also provides important details about whether a course has pre-requisites or restrictions.

Credit hours: Courses in college are measured in credit hours where 1 credit hour = about 1 hour of in-class time. Courses can range from 0-5 credit hours, but most courses are worth about 3 credit hours. For every credit hour of class, students should anticipate spending 2-3 hours/week studying.

Degree audit: An unofficial audit of courses completed and in progress for a particular major/degree.

Double major and dual degree: Students interested in gaining specialized knowledge in another discipline within their same college can complete a double major. If students want to complete a second major in another college or complete one specialized degree (like ChBE or Spec Chem) and another specialized or non-specialized degree in the same college, then they will need to complete a dual degree. Dual degrees require students to take an additional 30 credit hours on top of the minimum required for one degree; completing a dual degree may take more than 8 semesters or 4 years.

Electives: Courses that do not satisfy major, minor, or General Education requirements but still count toward credit hours or requirements for your degree. Most majors will require students to complete electives to reach the minimum number of credit hours to graduate.

> **Technical electives:** ChBE and Spec Chem require that students take technical electives to complete their degree. These are usually advanced engineering, science, or otherwise technical courses. ChBE has a list of technical electives available; students in Spec Chem should confirm which courses can count as technical electives with their SCS advisor.

Expected Graduation Date (EGD): The latest date by which students are expected to complete all of their degree requirements. Students can graduate in any semester up to and including their EGD.

General Education courses (or Gen Eds): Every student at Illinois must complete a broad set of courses in addition to the specialized courses they complete for their major. Gen Eds aim to help students develop and practice their critical thinking and problem solving skills in a variety of disciplines.

> **Advanced Composition (compared with Composition I):** All students must complete an advanced, intensive writing course in addition to their first year composition (composition I) course. These are usually completed in the junior or senior year. This course is built into the degree requirements for ChBE and Spec Chem majors; students in Chem S&L and CS+Chem can choose from a variety of options.
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> **Language Other than English (or LOTE):** All students must complete or otherwise demonstrate intermediate-level proficiency in a language other than English (LOTE). Students in ChBE and Spec Chem must complete at least 3 years of 1 LOTE; students in Chem S&L and CS+Chem must complete 4 years of 1 LOTE or 3 years each of 2 LOTE.

Learning Management System (LMS): The site or interface that instructors use to organize course materials. Students in SCS will likely need to use Canvas, Moodle, Prairie Learn, and OWL. Instructors should provide guidance about the course LMS in their syllabus.

Lecture, Lab, and Quiz/Discussion/Recitation: Almost all class sessions are delivered in one of these formats. Lecture classes are typically led by instructors or professors who provide extended talks (lectures) on course material multiple times a week. Some lectures are accompanied by discussions (also known as recitations or quizzes), where students discuss course material, ask questions, and practice what they learned in lecture under the guidance of a teaching assistant. Laboratory classes require students to perform certain tasks in controlled situations to test their knowledge of processes.

Minor (and how it differs from a major): A minor is an optional, coherent program of study that requires students to acquire somewhat deep knowledge of a subject, but not the specialized knowledge required for a major. Most minors require students to complete 18-24 credit hours (6-8 classes); most majors require that students complete at least 30 credit hours (10+ classes) in a particular discipline. Students can declare a minor after they've completed at least 30 credit hours.

Office hours: These are designated times outside of class when students can meet in-person or virtually with instructors or TAs to get assistance with course content. These should be listed on the course's syllabus. If students are struggling with a key course concept, need assistance with homework, or just want to learn more about a topic, they should utilize office hours.

Prerequisite (prerequisite course): A key, foundational course that a student must complete before enrolling in a subsequent or related course. For instance, Calculus I is a prerequisite for Calculus II. Not all disciplines enforce prerequisites, but many do. Students can check the individual course listing in the Class Schedule to see whether a course has a prerequisite.

> **Co-requisite course:** A course that must be taken before or at the same time as a related course. For instance, Calculus II is a co-requisite for Engineering Physics – Mechanics and Organic Chemistry I lecture is a co-requisite for Organic Chemistry I lab.

Syllabus: A summary of a course that typically includes instructor (and TA) contact information, an outline of what will be covered in the course, descriptions and deadlines for course assignments, an overview how students will be graded, and specific course policies. Instructors should provide a syllabus during the first week of classes. Whenever a student has a question about a course requirement or policy, they should check their syllabus first and then contact their instructor or TA if something is unclear.

STEM: Stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. Classes in STEM include Chemistry, Math, Physics, ChBE, CS, and more. Advisors may talk with students about STEM versus non-STEM courses (or technical versus non-technical courses), particularly when discussing how to create a balanced and manageable schedule.

Teaching Assistant (TA): While an instructor or professor will usually lead lecture sections, lab or discussion sections of a class are usually led by a graduate or undergraduate teaching assistant. TAs are a good first point of contact for students who have questions about a class or otherwise need assistance. Many TAs also serve as tutors for classes and have designated office hours.

Time ticket: The exact day and time that a student can register for classes for the next semester. All students can view their time ticket in Self-Service about two weeks before priority registration starts. A students' time ticket is based on their class level and total number of credit hours completed.

Transcript (official versus unofficial): A student's permanent academic record that usually shows courses attempted, grades received, academic status, and honors. An official transcript is certified and sent directly from a college or university's registrar; an unofficial transcript is a version that has not been certified by the university and may have been received or downloaded by the student. At Illinois, students can download or print their "Academic History" in Self-Service to serve as an unofficial transcript.

Registered Student Organizations (or RSOs): University-recognized groups of students who share a unique purpose or mission. RSOs can vary greatly in size and focus on anything from academics and professional affiliations to arts, religion, club sports, and service.

Find other common university terms online: https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/outreach-consultation-prevention/cultural-diversity-outreach/first-generation-students/university