

Dear Students,

We are opening the application process for our Fall 2018 Chemistry Learning Assistant Program. Many of you have seen the LAs in action during your own CH301, CH302, or Organic Chemistry classes. Below is a brief summary of the program, including a couple videos, and a link to the Qualtrics application. The application window for the Fall 2018 LA program opens on April 10, 2018 and applications will be considered on a rolling basis until all spots are filled.

Summary of program

As a Learning Assistant (LA) in our CH301, CH302, or Organic Chemistry classroom, you are a part of our teaching team. LAs assist students in the classroom during active learning segments of the course, helping students with activities and questions and in some classes may assist students during study halls outside of classtime. LAs enroll in and attend CH372C to review 301/302/Organic material and to study topics related to teaching, ethics, and leadership. The course carries the Ethics and Leadership flag. The LA program requires a time commitment of roughly 10-12 hours a week: 3 hours in a 301, 302, or Organic Chemistry classroom, 2-3 hours in CH372C, and about 5 hours of preparatory time, although total time will vary week to week and from LA to LA. The position is unpaid. After a successful year in the program you can apply for a paid position within the program. The skills you learn as a part of this program can also be a springboard to other on-campus student educator positions.

Here is a video briefly describing the program: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAVQgefKdy4> Note that this video was done early in the program; you now generally have material to work on well in advance of our meeting times.

Benefits of program

You will gain a much better understanding of general or organic chemistry, will get to know the professors and TAs, will get to know a great group of fellow LAs, and will have the opportunity to develop stronger leadership, teaching, and interpersonal skills. Hear what past LAs have to say: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTq3pa-8ScY>

How to apply

Fill out the application here: https://utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cuStDvD3VpgYWwZ

Scheduling

If you are accepted into the program, you will be sent a scheduling survey. Based on your schedule, your course preferences, and the balancing of the number of LAs in each class, you will be assigned to a CH372C course, which we will register you for, and a CH301, CH302, or Organic Chemistry course, which you do not register for but will be expected to attend to assist students.

CH372C is offered MWF 9-10 and MWF 12-1.

Tentative times for CH301 are MWF 10-11, 11-12, 12-1 and TT 8-9:30 and 12:30-2.

Tentative times for CH302 are TT 12:30-2 and MWF 2-3.

Tentative time for organic (320N) is MWF 9-10.

Please let me know if you have any questions. All application materials and questions should be sent to me at ch372ua@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sparks