

Peer Learning Mentoring (PLM) Chem 296 Section 2

All Peer Leaders enroll in PLM for 2-credits of independent study. Peer Leaders learn that their roles in PLTL will be to foster effective collaboration among the students in their PLTL groups, rather than to tell the students how to solve the problems or to reveal whether the group's solutions are correct. PLM includes modeling by the instructors on the strategies for collaborative learning.

Pedagogy: Tentatively: Wednesday 5:30 – 6:45 (approximately 8 sessions per semester)

PLs participate in the Pedagogy sessions and earn 2-credits of Chem 296 credit. This semester, we need all PLs to participate in Pedagogy due to the online format.

In the PLM Course, Peer Leaders learn:

- Collaborative-learning strategies that PLTL groups will use when solving problems
- Group-facilitation techniques to engage all members of the group
- Questioning strategies
- Leadership skills
- Communication skills
- Identifying and solving common problems within PLTL groups

Core Strategies for Collaborative Learning

Round-Robin When developing a multi-step solution to a problem, one student presents the first step, explaining the rationale behind this step and using the chalkboard to record key points or calculations. Moving around the table, each student then goes to the chalkboard to present and explain the next step, until the solution is reached.

Scribe One Student (the scribe) goes to the chalkboard, and the other students tell the scribe what to write as the group develops a solution to the problem. The scribe may not talk, except to ask clarifying questions, and may only write what the other students say.

Small Groups / Pairs In groups of 2-4, students work on the problem, or parts of the problem, before reconvening for a discussion with the entire PLTL group. During this larger group discussion, the students use the chalkboard to record contributions made by each group.

All PLs meet weekly to go over the worksheet, and participate in an orientation session and a end-of-semester evaluation of the program.