

# YOUSHMANNIE SUKRAJ

(VALEDICTORIAN)



## What is your best advice for student choosing to major in Chemistry?

Majoring in Chemistry will come with many ups and downs. It is likely that some courses will be much more difficult than others – do not let this discourage you! We are only able to grow as individuals when we are forced out of our comfort zones. Use moments of struggle to learn ways in which you can improve yourself. If you are struggling to manage the course load, studying with classmates, and attending office hours with professors is always useful. Seek out mentorship and advisement earlier on in your undergraduate career so that you may devise a plan which will help you achieve your goals. Be mindful of opportunities that exist outside of the classroom; research, internships, and volunteer work are enriching additions to your education. I would also recommend researching applicable scholarship opportunities to alleviate any financial burden pursuing your degree may pose. Most importantly, be kind to yourself during your academic journey and do not compare your progress to that of others.

## Why did you choose Chemistry as your major?

During my time as an undergraduate student, I spent my first few semesters determining the career path I was most interested in. I recognized that I wanted to work in healthcare and to be in a field that inspired creativity and innovation. Dentistry quickly became a newfound passion and I decided majoring in Chemistry would be a great start to my academic journey. The Chemistry major included courses that were also pre-requisites to many dental schools. This ensured that I would be able to complete my degree and the dental school pre-requisites within the time frame I was hoping for while simultaneously enjoying courses that truly sparked my interest. The Chemistry major allowed me to take multiple courses which included a great amount of hands-on activity. I appreciated the complexity of the major and was fortunate to learn to from professors that were determined to share their passion for the subject.

## What is next for you?

**After graduating with my bachelor's degree,** I decided to take a gap year to begin preparing my dental school applications. This time will also be used to save up as much money as I can so that I am more financially stable when starting graduate school. I am hoping to begin my real estate investment journey by the end of this year and look forward to a year of opportunities and growth.

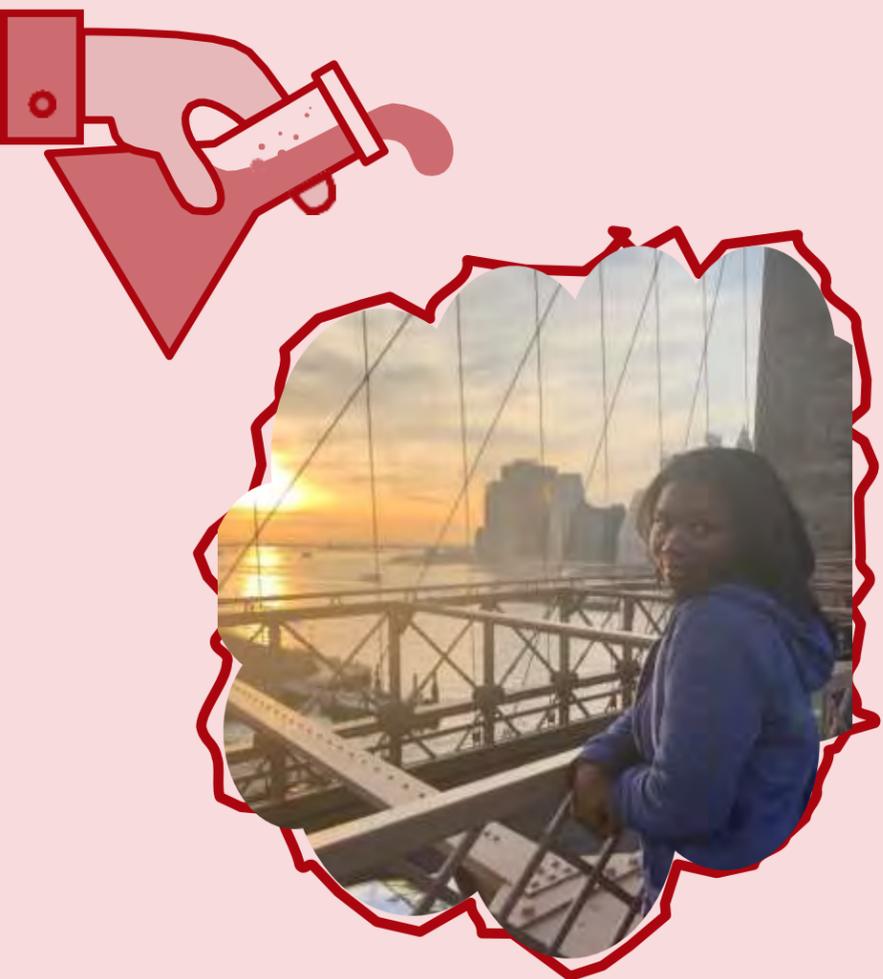


## Student Corner: How did you decide on pursuing a career in dentistry?

I was first exposed to the field of dentistry when I began a position as a dental assistant during my sophomore year of college. In this position I gained insights to various specialties such as pediatrics, anesthesia, endodontics, oral surgery, and cosmetic dentistry. This valuable experience led me to develop a strong passion for the field. I also volunteered at a local hospital where I provided oral hygiene education to an immigrant dense population. Through this program and my own experiences as a first-generation immigrant, I recognized the significant healthcare disparities amongst BIPOC communities resulting in neglected oral care. My goal is to become a provider that advocates for patient education and offers empathy and kindness during treatment.



# KEYANDRA BUSSEY



What is your best advice for a student choosing to major in Chemistry?

My advice to future chemistry students is to stay strong and never give up, things may get tough, and you may feel like the whole world is against you. Still, one thing you should know is that what you are doing is no easy feat, and I, your professor, and all your peers are very proud of you. Chemistry is not an easy subject. It requires a lot of time, patience, and dedication! So next **time when you're down and out, always remember what's worth having may never come easy.**

What is next for you?

After I graduate with my **Bachelor's in Applied Chemistry**, I plan on preparing for the MCAT exam to begin applying to medical schools. Still, during this time, I also plan to enjoy life by having fun with my daughter Justine and my family; she always knows how to cheer me up during any stressful time. She is like my good luck charm. I love her so much.

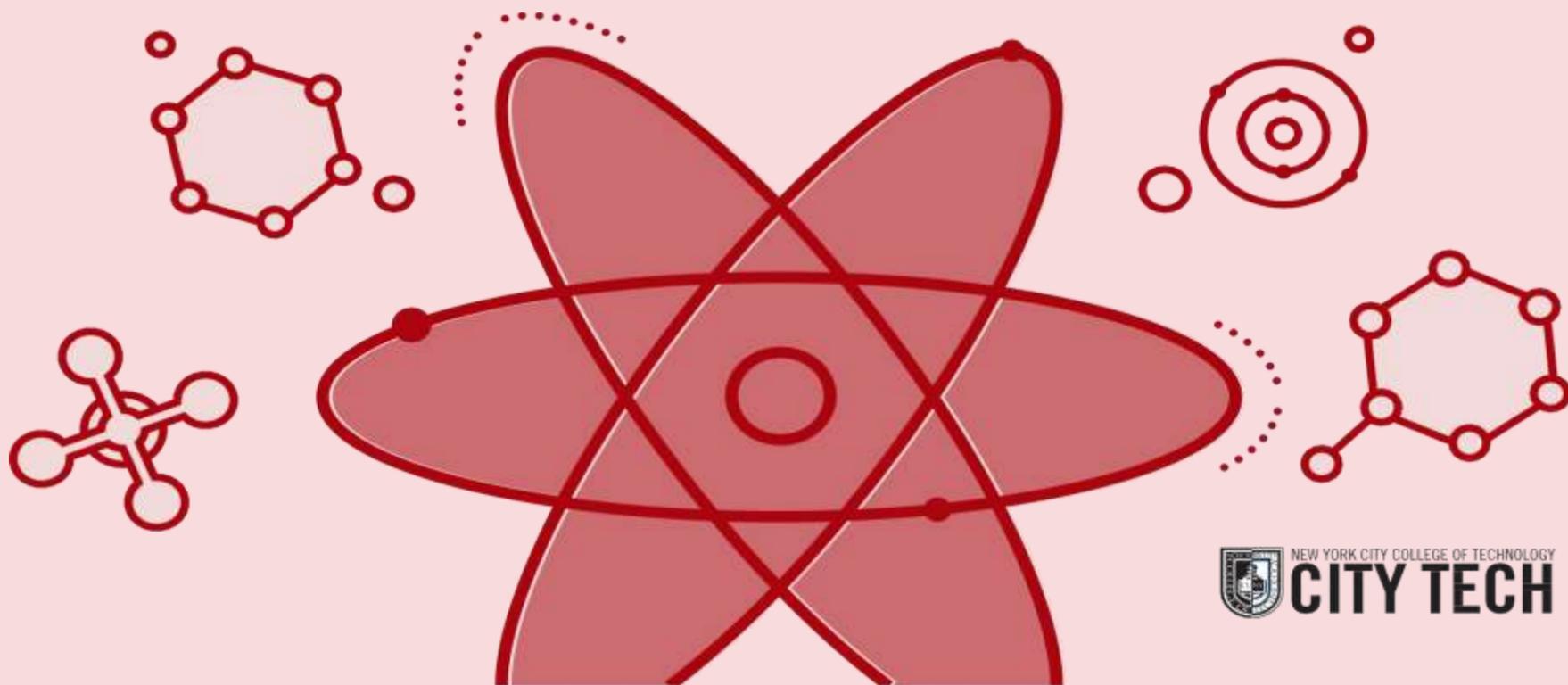
Why did you choose Chemistry as your major?

Chemistry is such an interesting subject; it allows you to understand the universe and how the atoms within the universe interact; also, chemistry is crucial when you want to know how medicine works and how living things interact. To work in the medical field, you must understand the chemistry of medications and how they interact with the body.



Student Corner: What are some studying techniques that can help you when you are learning chemistry?

The best studying techniques depends on the studying styles that are comfortable to you. Personally, when I am studying chemistry, I not only do active recall, but I also use repetition to familiarize myself with the material, and how to correctly solve problems, balancing equations, stoichiometry, and many other topics within the scope of chemistry can be challenging to grasp but remember practice makes perfect.



# EDUARDO BRAVO



## What is your best advice for student choosing to major in Chemistry?

The most important advice for the students is to approach their professors and ask them about internship opportunities. Also, make sure that they put the right amount of time to study for their classes and to make sure to ask questions in class. But the most important one is to enjoy their undergraduate life; undergraduate life will give you the skills necessary to face real life.

## Why did you choose Chemistry as your major?

One of the main reasons why I chose chemistry as my major is because I have always been fascinated to understand how the periodic table works. Also, I was very interested in learning how chemistry experiments are carried out in a chemistry lab.

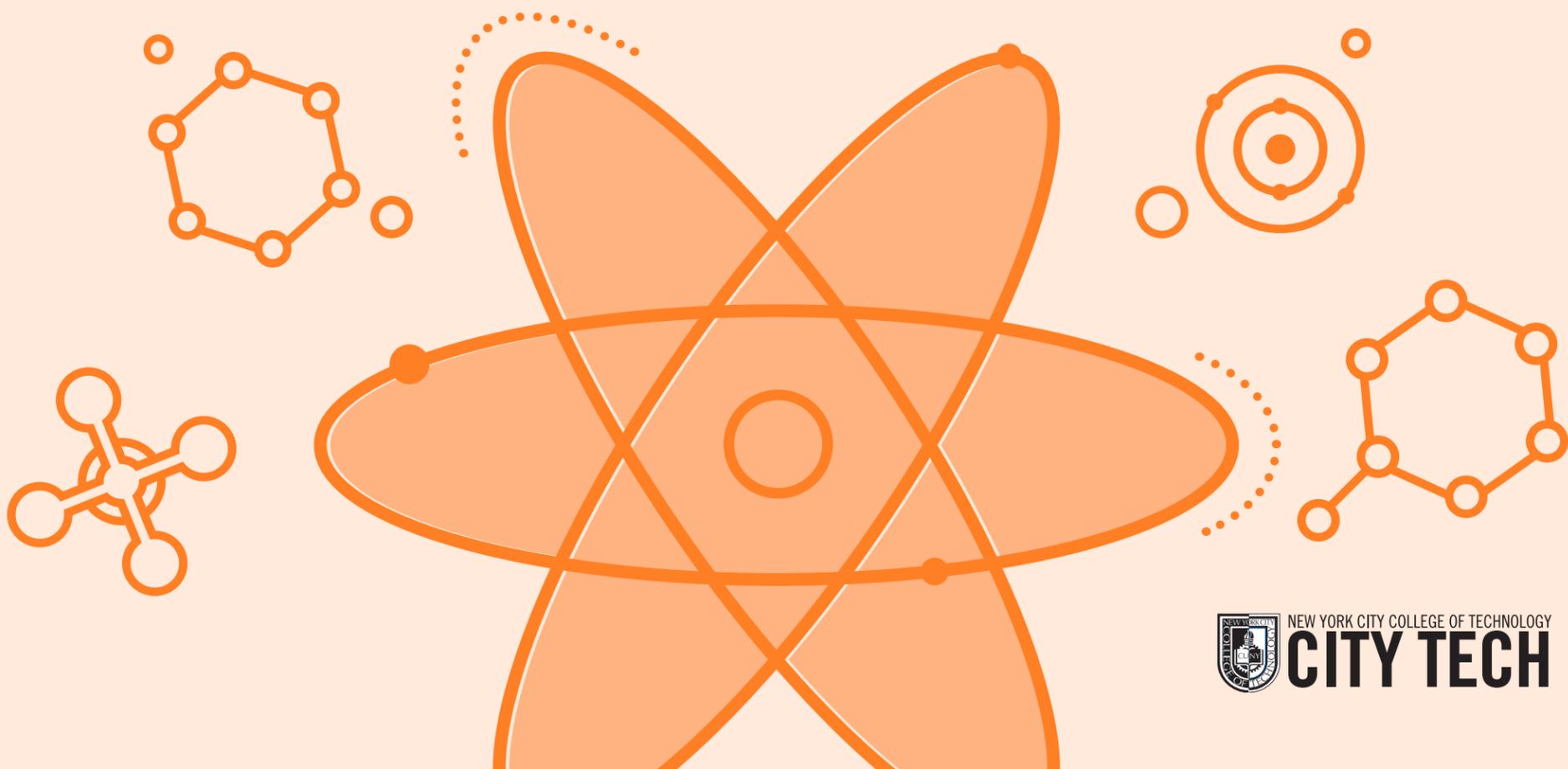
## What is next for you?

I'm currently a first year PhD chemistry student at Stony Brook University. My goal is to work in the drug discovery field. After finishing my PhD, I would like to do Postdoctoral work related to Chemical Biology.



## Student Corner: Is Chemistry tough?

Yes, chemistry is hard, but nothing in life is easy. You have to be dedicated, passionate and always willing to learn about the world that surrounds us.



# MIGUEL GOMEZ



## Why did you choose Chemistry as your major?

It was my favorite subject during high school and I was curious to see if it would be a good fit for me as a profession. Initially, I couldn't decide between Math or Chemistry as potential majors, so I started part-time with Gen Chem I and Calc I. After two part-time semesters, I chose Chemistry because it was a field I was inherently curious about and was amazed at the concept of small molecular changes enabling large biological differences.

## What is your best advice for a student choosing to major in Chemistry?

I have two sets of "best advice"; one for students (in general) and another for Chemistry students:  
-For students: Have a plan. It is easy to see the degree as the finish line. However, in real-life, degrees or certificates are often tools used to achieve a certain goal; in most cases, a job. So, I encourage students to picture their goal or figure out what they want to do as a profession. After figuring that out, look for a path to get there or use the school's resources (ex: advisor) to figure out that path.

-For Chemistry students: Invest time in research. Whether looking for a job or graduate school after earning the bachelor's degree, research will only bring you closer to your goals. It will open up various scholarship/fellowship opportunities (in-state or out-of-state), increase your chances of getting into graduate school (Master's or PhD), and give your resume a more mature tone when applying for jobs.

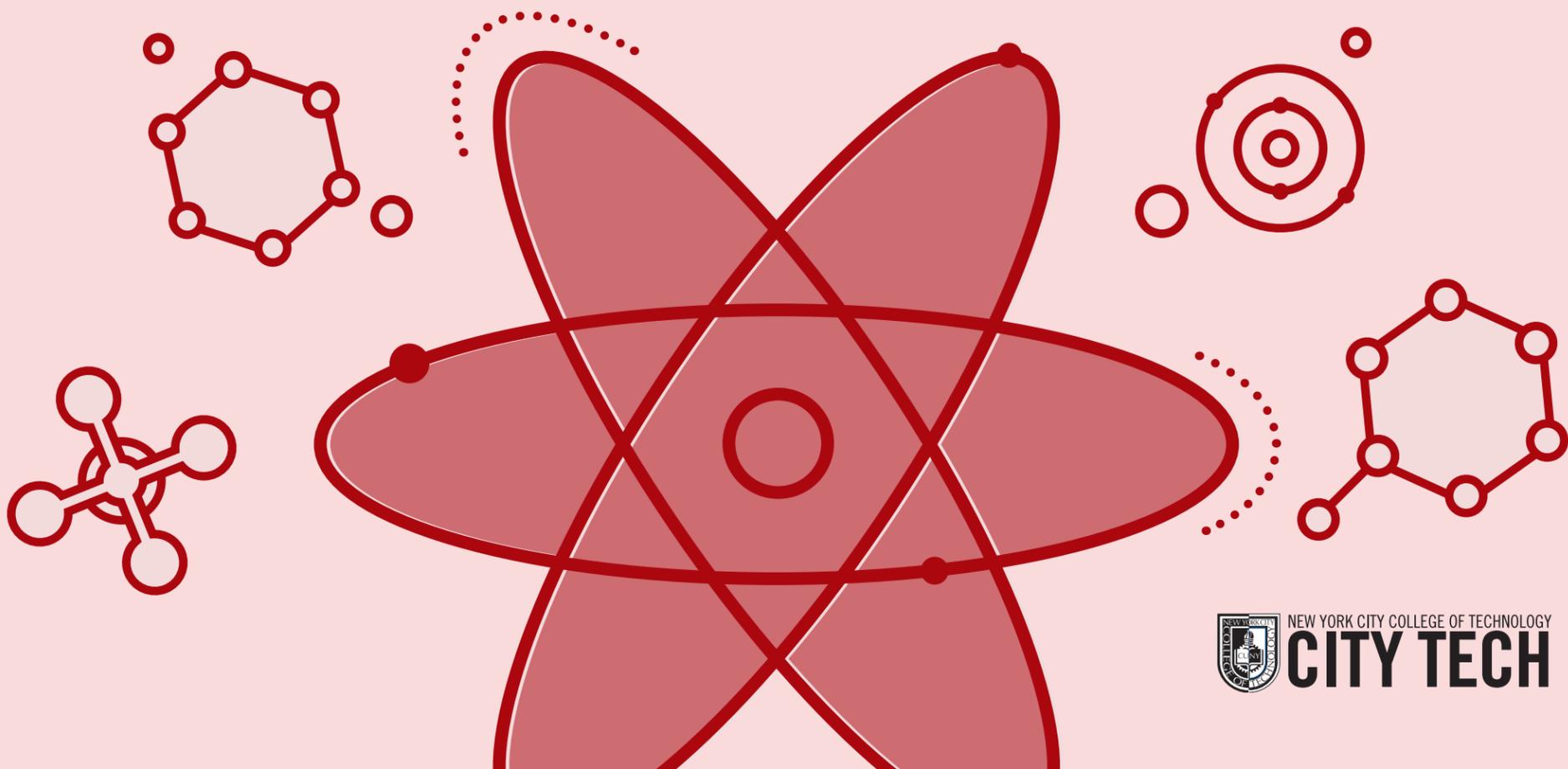
## What is next for you?

After finishing the Applied Chemistry Bachelor's program, I accepted a year-long post-baccalaureate cancer research trainee position at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Frederick, Maryland. After the post-bac position, I intend to enroll in a Chemistry Ph.D. program (concentration: organic chemistry) within the NorthEast region of the U.S. (ex: MIT, Yale, UPenn, Stony Brook).



## Student Corner: Why are there only bad jokes in chemistry?

Because all the good ones Argon.



# HEBAH KHAROUFEH



## What is your best advice for student choosing to major in Chemistry?

My best advice is to keep yourself aware of the opportunities to conduct research in the chemistry labs.

## What is next for you?

I am currently a graduate school at Touro College pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, TCOP class of 2023! After I graduate I want to complete my residency training and become a clinical pharmacist - to work in a hospital. I also plan to continue my research in plasma bound drugs and their interactions with human proteins and possibly publish my research study.

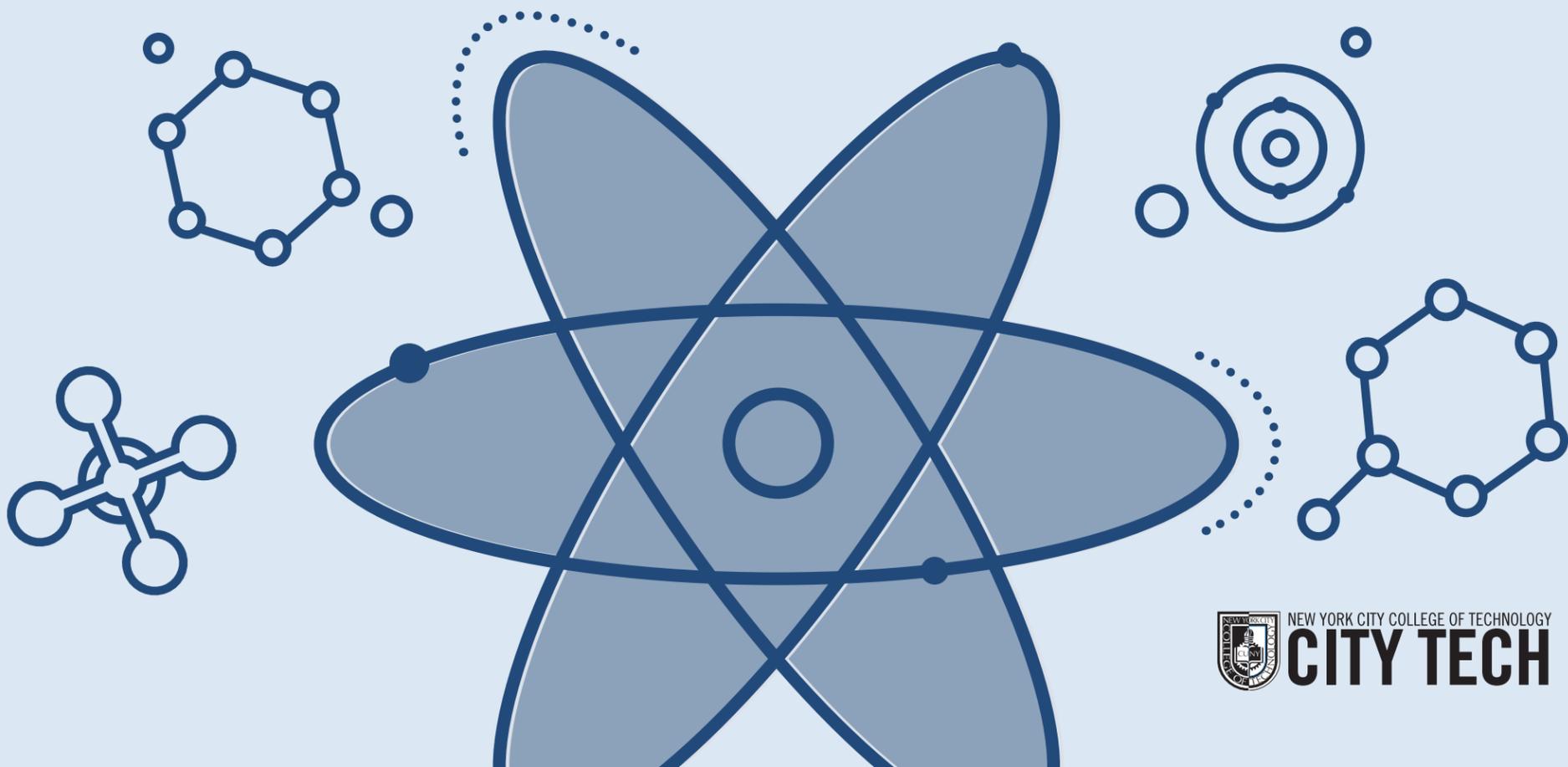
## Why did you choose Chemistry as your major?

For the wide selection of further degrees and opportunities it provides. It covers pre-reqs for PA, medical, and pharmacy schools. It also teaches vital laboratory skills and writing that is important in research.



## Student Corner: How did the Chemistry Department help you further your education?

It is because of the advice I got from the department that I am here today. I learned about Touro when the department hosted the Dean of Admission during club hours. The faculty were very helpful in terms of connecting me with the right people.



# XIAOLAN WU



## Why did you choose Chemistry as your major?

- Chemistry is a subject that I enjoyed learning and became enthusiastic about since Junior High School in China.
- The Applied Chemistry major at CityTech covered a lot of prerequisites towards applying for dental school, which was where I wanted to go.

## What is next for you?

-I recently got accepted to the DDS program at the New York University (NYU) College of Dentistry, and plan to attend the coming Fall. Additionally, before my dental school journey begins, I am planning to enrich my dental research experience by working with dental research faculty of the Summer Research Fellowship program at NYU.

## What is your best advice for student choosing to major in Chemistry?

- Before class: review class materials
- In class: be honest about what you don't know, and be brave enough to raise your hand and ask questions.
- After class: solve homework problems and ask professors/tutors/classmates for help if you still don't understand some concepts. You can also search YouTube for videos to help you better understand the concepts.
- Mark down deadlines for HW/project submissions on your planner/calendar.
- Seek advisement when making your academic/career plans.
- Look around for different opportunities (e.g., research, scholarships, and student clubs) to make yourself a stronger candidate for jobs or graduate school programs.



## Student Corner: Is there any scholarships available for students majoring in Chemistry at CityTech?

- Yes, there are some on-campus scholarships, which are designated for STEM students to apply for at CityTech. During my undergraduate, I applied for and received the NSF S-STEM scholarship.
- Don't forget to look for other scholarship/fellowship opportunities outside of school, as well.

