

# **THE ROLE OF THE LABORATORY IN CHEMICAL EDUCATION**

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## **Abstract**

Chemistry laboratories have been classical adjuncts to the standard mode of instruction of chemistry students, which has been the lecture format. It is not at all obvious from the research literature what laboratory instruction contributes to a student's understanding of chemistry. In this lecture, we examine the kinds of laboratory-oriented activities generally found in chemistry courses and the elements of learning that might be affected by laboratory instruction in an attempt to establish the role of the laboratory in the formal education of chemistry students.