I teach chemistry in pre-health. Pre-health prepares students who are planning to apply to enter a program for healthcare providers (e.g. nursing, paramedic, vet. tech.) after pre-health. Most students prefer biology to chemistry. Many don’t see the point of learning chemistry because it can be difficult and they don’t like the fact that it may reduce their final marks needed for applying to their target programs. So, I start the course asking them why they think chemistry might be important for health care providers to have an understanding of chemistry:

* Life is chemistry – basically we are just bags of chemical reactions walking around this planet!
* Your metabolism, which is so important for biology and physiology – is just a series of chemical reactions, so understanding chemistry will help you understand biology better this year and in your target program
* Hormones, DNA, proteins, fats, carbohydrates (in biology) are all chemicals
* Drugs are chemicals and drug metabolism involves chemistry – a basic knowledge of types of chemicals will help understanding drugs and remembering drug names
* Applications to some healthcare professions require chemistry
* Everything around us is made of chemicals – desks, computers, soap, shampoo, food, car batteries, pets, plants, water, houses etc. ….. and chemical reactions have been used in forming them.
* The problem solving and lab skills in chemistry will prepare them for their target programs
* The math skills learned in this course will help prepare students for medication calculations in their target programs.