Chemistry and Biochemistry (CHBC)

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Colin David Heyes, Assistant Professor
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Jackson Lay Jr., Professor
Matt McIntosh, Professor
Frank Millett, Distinguished Professor
David W. Paul, Associate Professor
Peter Pulya, Distinguished Professor, Roger Bost Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Joshua Sakon, Associate Professor
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Julie A. Stenken, Professor
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Degrees Conferred:
M.S., Ph.D. in Chemistry (CHEM)

Areas of Study: Analytical, inorganic, organic, physical, biophysical, and biochemistry.

Primary Areas of Faculty Research: Specialized centers complement traditional research areas in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. These include the Center for Protein Structure and Function and the State-Wide Mass Spectrometry Facility.

Admission to Graduate Program: In addition to the application for admission to the Graduate School and the transcripts required for Graduate School admission, applicants for admission to the degree programs of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry must submit a.) three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant’s previous academic and professional performance and b.) official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (General Test). Advanced subject GRE tests scores (Chemistry, Biochemistry, etc.) are encouraged but not required.

Basic Program for Advanced Degree Candidates: In addition to the material given below, the student is referred to the general Graduate School requirements mentioned earlier in this catalog and to the bulletin Information for Graduate Students in Chemistry and Biochemistry available from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

1. An undergraduate program, consisting of courses in general chemistry, analytical chemistry (two semesters), organic chemistry (three semesters), physical chemistry (two semesters), and inorganic chemistry (one semester) provide an adequate foundation for graduate work in chemistry and biochemistry. If a graduate student lacks any part of this introductory program, it must be completed within the first four semesters as a graduate student. If the student has the necessary prerequisites, courses for graduate credit may be taken concurrently. Proficiency in physical chemistry must be demonstrated by satisfactory performance on placement examinations. Inadequate performance may be remedied by enrollment in one or more recommended courses.

2. The department has no foreign language requirement for either the M.S. or Ph.D. degree.

3. Each advanced degree candidate must present a suitable program of advanced courses and research. The specific courses needed to provide a basis for scholarly work beyond the B.S. level will vary with the student’s undergraduate preparation, area of concentration and the degree sought. Individual course enrollments must be approved initially by the graduate adviser and subsequently by the student’s advisory committee.

4. Every student must register for a minimum of one credit hour of CHEM 600V or CHEM 700V in each term during which the student is present and doing thesis or dissertation research. Post-candidacy doctoral students are required to be enrolled in at least one hour of dissertation credit (CHEM 700V) every semester (fall, spring, summer), until the degree is conferred.

Additional Requirement for Master of Science Degree: The Master of Science degree in Chemistry requires a minimum 24 hours of course work plus six hours of thesis. A thesis reporting original research will be required of all candidates for the Master of Science degree in chemistry.

Additional Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree: A doctoral advisory committee is appointed to evaluate the candidate’s preparation and to draw up a suitable program of study and research. This committee consists of the student’s major professor and at least three other members of the graduate faculty. Under most circumstances, the major professor serves as the chairperson of that committee.

For chemistry students, the candidacy examination is of the cumulative type. Five cumulative examinations are given each semester in each of the areas of concentration mentioned above. To complete the candidacy examination, seven of these cumulative examinations must be passed within a specified time, usually by the end of the fifth semester of graduate work.