Our Mission

The Department of Chemistry is dedicated to excellence in education, research, and public service. We strive towards these goals through world-class teaching in the classroom and laboratory, research aimed at solving some of society’s most important human health, energy, and environmental problems, fostering an environment of safety, and embracing diversity of communities and ideas to benefit Minnesota, the nation, and the world.

The Department of Chemistry has been a national and international leader throughout its history. A range of companies and academic institutions from across the world hire our graduates and collaborate with us on research. Our alumni have enormous societal impact as academicians, K-12 teachers, scientists and managers in industrial and government laboratories, lawyers, public policy advocates, entrepreneurs, and in a diverse array of other fields.

By the Numbers

More than $18 million in annual expenditures results in research performed by 241 graduate students and 70 post-doctoral researchers.

We teach >40,000 student credit hours per year

16 of our 43 faculty members have received some of the university's highest teaching honors and are members of the University’s Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

We have eight multi-disciplinary, highly collaborative research centers that are funded by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and Department of Energy.

Our researchers publish more than 300 papers annually. In the past five years, those papers have been cited more than 25,000 times. Most of the papers are co-written by graduate students.

11 faculty members serve as editors of 13 top chemistry journals.
Charter
To help achieve its mission, the Department of Chemistry is committed to building relationships with and seeking input from the broader community. Such input is provided by the Chemistry External Advisory Board, which helps the department pursue strategies aimed at enhancing the vitality and effectiveness of its teaching, research, service, and outreach activities.

Functions
• Advise the Department Head and other department members with regard to academic, programmatic, and strategic issues.
• Assist in the promotion and recognition of the Department of Chemistry locally, nationally, and globally, with the aim of building understanding of and confidence in its activities, faculty, staff, and students.
• Provide personal philanthropic support and assistance in seeking public and private financial support that will enable the Department of Chemistry to achieve its mission.

Election and Membership
• A standing nominations committee (Department Head, CEAB Chair, and Development Officer) reviews nominations and extends membership to individuals who have demonstrated leadership and achievement in their fields of endeavor.
• Membership terms are three academic years and a term is renewable at the discretion of the standing nominations committee.
• The Chairperson of the Board is appointed by the Department Head; the term of office is three years and may be renewed.

Meetings
Meetings are typically conducted once a year in the spring semester, at a time and place mutually agreed upon by the CEAB Chair and the Department Head.

Timothy Abraham, Ph.D.
Corporate Fellow/Scientist
Cargill, Inc. Hopkins, MN

Gregory Anderson, Ph.D.
Vice President Corporate Research & Development
3M, Saint Paul, MN

Anna Belu, Ph.D.
Senior Principal Scientist
Technical Fellow, Bakken Fellow
Microscopy & Surface Analysis
Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN

Arthur Coury, Ph.D.
Northeastern University
Genzyme (retired)
Boston, MA

Robert DeMaster, Ph.D.
3M (retired)
Suntava Chief Technology Adviser
Afton, MN & Palm Desert, CA

Robert Duan, Ph.D.
Global Technology Director
Sherwin-Williams, Cleveland, OH

Shawn D. Feist
Lead Research & Development Director
Dow Chemical Company
Midland, MI

Paul Guehler, Ph.D.
Retired Vice President of Research & Development
3M, Naples, FL

Karl Haider, Ph.D.
Intellectual Property Manager for North America
Covestro LLC, Pittsburgh, PA

Daniel LeCloux, Ph.D.
Research & Development Director,
Emerging Technologies & Leveraged Analytical Sciences
Electronics & Imaging Division
DuPont, Wilmington, DE

Yong Li, Ph.D.
Global Director
Textiles & Nonwovens Technology
Eastman Chemical, Kingsport, TN

Scott Pearson, Ph.D.
Senior Director, Global Research & Development Engineering
The Coca-Cola Company
Atlanta, GA

Martin Rigney, Ph.D.
Retired Research & Development Global Analytical & Microbiological Services
Ecolab, Eagan, MN

Terrance Smith, Ph.D.
Retired Senior Staff Scientist
3M, Saint Paul, MN

Steven Tinker, Ph.D.
SBC Industries

Darrel Untereker, Ph.D.
Retired Vice President, Senior Technical Fellow, Bakken Fellow
Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN

Steve Vanderboom
President & Chief Executive Officer
Pace Analytical Services
Minneapolis, MN

Janet Zuffa, Ph.D.
Research & Development Director
Polymer and Analytical Sciences
Masonite Corporation, Tampa, FL