By the Numbers

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

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.

World-Class Faculty

Our 43 faculty members and 13 affiliate graduate faculty members are excellent teachers, mentors, and advisers. More than a third have received some of the college’s and university’s highest teaching honors.

We mentor students interested in teaching through the Mentorship Program for Aspiring Chemistry Teachers. This includes a two-semester “Preparing for Future Faculty” course with in-class teaching experiences, plus experiences as teaching assistants, and opportunities to mentor undergraduate student researchers.

Our Alumni

Our alumni are productive scientists, scholars, and teachers. They serve:

- as university and college faculty members;
- in leadership positions at national laboratories; and
- as scientists at major chemical, pharmaceutical, and biomedical industries such as 3M, Medtronic, Cargill, Ecolab, DowDuPont, Phillips66, and many others.

“By asking for help, you can avoid wasting your own time and the time of others. It is always better to ask for help or advice in a timely manner than later. My professors were more likely to support my work if they knew I had asked for help. It gives them the knowledge that you are not afraid to ask.”

—Amani Lee

Information:

- check us out on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube (UMNChemistry), www.chem.umn.edu
- visit our academics web pages, https://chem.umn.edu/academics/graduate/prospective-students
- application info: chmappy@umn.edu, (612) 624-8008

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.

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Research Opportunities

Working with some of the top chemists in their fields, you will be actively engaged in research aimed at solving some of society’s most important environmental, health, and energy issues.

Research in the our department is collaborative and interdisciplinary. Overarching goals of some of our ongoing research projects include improving human health and the environment, developing nanotechnology and novel advanced materials for a myriad of applications, and unraveling problems associated with devising new alternative sources of energy. This research covers the range of chemistry, from chemical biology to physical chemistry and polymer chemistry. Many of our students are co-advised by professors in other departments and are involved in collaborative research across the university and beyond.

There are opportunities to participate in multi-disciplinary, collaborative research centers and initiatives, including the Center for Metals in Biocatalysis, Center for Sustainable Nanotechnology, Center for Sustainable Polymers, Chemical Biology Initiative, Chemical Biology Interface Training Grant, Chemical Theory Center, Inorganometallic Catalyst Design Center, Industrial Partnership for Research in Interfacial & Materials Engineering, Masonic Cancer Center, Mass Cytometry Initiative, Materials Research Science & Engineering Center, Medical Devices Center, and Nanoporous Materials Genome Center.

As a researcher, you will:

• conduct biomedical, medical, pharmaceutical, and materials research in collaboration with Minnesota’s world-class medical school, which is located across the street, and with the university’s top-ranked science and engineering programs. There are opportunities to work with hundreds of Minneapolis-area healthcare organizations and medical device companies, including several Fortune 500 companies.
• have access to state-of-the-art equipment and technology needed for leading-edge chemistry research such as the department’s nuclear magnetic resonance, mass spectrometry, and X-ray crystallographic laboratories, the University’s Characterization Facility, Institute of Therapeutics Discovery and Development, Minnesota Nano Center, Minnesota NMR Center, and the topnotch Minnesota Supercomputing Institute, to name a few.
• share your research as authors of papers published in prestigious scientific journals and at conferences and poster sessions.

Empowerment

Our students gain experiences that extend beyond the classroom and the laboratory. We empower our students to create an environment where they can prosper and contribute to their own learning, and participate in a variety of leadership and outreach activities:

• Joint Safety Team, a national award-winning group led by graduate students and post-doctoral associates, including Laboratory Safety Officers and others who are interested in improving the culture of safety in chemical laboratories;
• Community of Chemistry Graduate Students, promoting a healthy academic environment, and fostering graduate students working together to support each other by offering workshops, programs, and social and athletic events;
• Graduate Student Workshop Committee, organizing workshops on a variety of topics important to graduate students such as preparing for oral exams, writing fellowship proposals, and applying for jobs;
• Graduate Student Seminar Committee, selecting, inviting, and hosting speakers for the Student Seminar Series;
• Chemistry Women in Science & Engineering (WISE), a networking resource for women graduate students and post-doctoral researchers, working to increase the recruitment and retention of women, and improving the climate for all chemists; and

“My adviser has been completely supportive of my passion for science communication and community engagement. This has allowed me to learn how to communicate science across collaborations in the department and with industry as well as with those that have non-science backgrounds.”
—Rebeca Rodriguez

“One of the best things the department offers is its diversity. I learn a lot about other cultures, and how other students value research, which is motivated by their backgrounds. The inclusivity the department promotes makes everyone feel like they belong here. Since everyone feels welcome, it is easy to foster a collaborative atmosphere within the department. I see different groups working together in multiple projects. Even as simple as sharing reagents and equipment are common among labs, which results in a productive environment.”
—Kiall Francis Suazo

“What has made my time in graduate school more joyful is just being open to excitement. Sometimes research can get hard and slow, and you feel like you are stuck in the mud. So, when you (or friends and lab mates) overcome a challenge, be excited, and celebrate! We’re all on the edge of something new together.”
—Stephanie Mitchell