Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry offers a PhD in Chemistry, with research specializations available in biological, organic, inorganic, physical, and nuclear chemistry. Doctoral students often work at the interface of two or more subfields of chemistry; they may also work at the interface of different scientific disciplines. Lab assignments are therefore made according to each student’s research project. Chemistry students may work in a lab outside the department or alongside students from other departments in a chemistry lab.

The department's research strengths in each subfield of chemistry are as follows:

- Biological: Biophysical, Bioorganic, Bioinorganic, Biochemistry
- Organic: Synthetic, Organometallic, Bioorganic, Physical Organic, Asymmetric Catalysis
- Inorganic: Coordination, Organometallic, Materials, Bioinorganic, Main Group
- Physical: Computational, Laser Spectroscopy, Theoretical, Magnetic Resonance
- Interdisciplinary: Biophysical, Physical Organic, Materials
- Nuclear and Radiochemistry: Stability of Nuclei, Radioisotopes for Medical Studies

Washington University's graduate student stipends are in the top 25 percent of stipends at similar universities, and St. Louis has a low cost of living. The department has an excellent record of placing its graduates in a wide variety of jobs: academic, industrial, governmental, legal, consulting, writing/editing, and entrepreneurial.

Contact Information

Email: loomis@wustl.edu or rachel.dunn@wustl.edu or barbara22@wustl.edu
Phone: 314-935-8534 or 314-935-6521 or 314-935-7316
Website: http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/graduate

Faculty

Chair

William E. Buhro (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/buhro)
George E. Pake Professor of Arts & Sciences
PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

Endowed Professors

Joseph J.H. Ackerman (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/ackerman)
William Greenleaf Eliot Professor
PhD, Colorado State University

Robert E. Blankenship (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/people/primary-faculty/robert-blankenship)
Lucille P. Markey Distinguished Professor of Arts & Sciences
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Regina F. Frey (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/frey)
Florence Moog Professor of STEM Education
Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry
PhD, University of Utah

Jacob Schaefer (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/schaefer)
Charles Allen Thomas Professor of Chemistry
PhD, University of Minnesota

Holden Thorp (http://provost.wustl.edu/about/provost-thorp)
Provost
Rita Levi-Montalcini Distinguished University Professor
PhD, California Institute of Technology

Professors

John R. Bleeke (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/bleeke)
PhD, Cornell University

Peter P. Gaspar (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/gaspar)
PhD, Yale University

Michael L. Gross (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/mgross)
PhD, University of Minnesota

Sophia E. Hayes (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/people/primary-faculty/sophia-e-hayes)
PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara

J. Dewey Holten (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/holten)
PhD, University of Washington

Ronald A. Lovett (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/lovett)
PhD, University of Rochester

Liviu Mirica (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/mirica)
PhD, Stanford University

Kevin D. Moeller (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/moeller)
PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara

Jay Ponder (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/ponder)
PhD, Harvard University

Demetrios G. Sarantites (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/sarantites)
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Lee G. Sobotka (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/sobotka)
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

John-Stephen Taylor (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/taylor)
PhD, Columbia University

Mark S. Wrighton (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/people/executive-faculty/mark-s-wrighton)
Chancellor
PhD, California Institute of Technology

Associate Professors

Vladimir B. Birman (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/people/primary-faculty/vladimir-birman)
PhD, University of Chicago

Richard A. Loomis (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/loomis)
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Richard Mabbs (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/mabbs)
PhD, University of Nottingham (U.K.)

Gary Patti (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/patti)
PhD, Washington University

Assistant Professors

Alexander Barnes (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/barnes)
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Jonathan Barnes (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/people/primary-faculty/jonathan-barnes)
PhD, Northwestern University

Julio D’Arcy (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/darcy)
PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

Meredith Jackrel (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/people/primary-faculty/meredith-jackrel)
PhD, Yale University

Bryce Sadler (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/sadler)
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Timothy Wencewicz (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/wencewicz)
PhD, University of Notre Dame

Joint Professor

Richard W. Gross (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/rgross)
PhD, Washington University
(Internal Medicine)

Degree Requirements

PhD in Chemistry

Requirements:

• 72 semester hours of graduate credit in courses and research
• Satisfactory performance on written cumulative examinations
• Satisfactory performance on annual pre-thesis committee meetings
• Demonstration of teaching competence
• Dissertation research and preparation of dissertation
• Satisfactory performance on a final oral dissertation defense

On average, students take between five and six years to complete the PhD.

Requirements specific to Chemistry include attendance at Thursday evening research presentations during the student's first fall semester, presenting and passing an oral examination within the first four semesters, and annual re-certification in laboratory safety.

Almost all students participate in mentored teaching experiences in their first two years and must perform satisfactorily. Students must also make annual research presentations to their advisory committee, prepare a satisfactory dissertation research proposal, and pass an oral examination.