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% 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**

Alison Redden Wessels  
aredden@wustl.edu  
314-935-6521

Barbara Tessmer  
barbara22@wustl.edu  
314-935-7316

Website: http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/graduate

**Faculty**

**Chair**

Jennifer Heemstra  
Charles Allen Thomas Professor  
PhD, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

**Endowed Professor**

Gary J. Patti (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/gary-patti/)  
Michael and Tana Powell Professor of Chemistry  
PhD, Washington University

**Professors**

John R. Bleeke (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/john-bleeke/)  
PhD, Cornell University

Michael L. Gross (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/michael-l-gross/)  
PhD, University of Minnesota

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

J. Dewey Holten (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/dewey-holten/)  
PhD, University of Washington

Richard A. Loomis (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/richard-loomis/)  
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Kevin D. Moeller (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/kevin-moeller/)  
PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara

Jay Ponder (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/jay-ponder/)  
PhD, Harvard University

Lee G. Sobotka (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/lee-sobotka/)  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

John-Stephen Taylor (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/john-stephen-taylor/)  
PhD, Columbia University

**Associate Professors**

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

Richard Mabbs (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/richard-mabbs/)  
PhD, University of Nottingham (UK)

Bryce Sadlter (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/bryce-sadlter/)  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Timothy Wencelwicz (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/timothy-wencelwicz/)  
PhD, University of Notre Dame
Assistant Professors

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

Joseph Fournier (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/joseph-fournier/)
PhD, Yale University

Kade Head-Marsden (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/kade-head-marsden/)
PhD, University of Chicago

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

Courtney Reichhardt (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/courtney-reichhardt/)
PhD, Stanford University

Robert Wexler (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/robert-wexler/)
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Joint Professor

Richard W. Gross (https://chemistry.wustl.edu/people/richard-w-gross/)
PhD, Washington University
(Internal Medicine)

Degree Requirements

PhD in Chemistry

Requirements:

- 72 units of graduate credit in courses and research
- Satisfactory performance on oral cumulative examinations
- Satisfactory performance in 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 recertification in laboratory safety.

Almost all students participate in mentored teaching experiences during 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.