CHEMISTRY, PH.D.

Saint Louis University's chemistry Ph.D. program offers specializations, including traditional areas of analytical, physical, organic and inorganic chemistry, as well as cross-disciplinary areas of materials and biological chemistry. Students must complete intensive research culminating in a dissertation.

Program Highlights

The chemistry program offers students:

- Close mentoring relationships
- Small research group size
- Opportunities to participate in interdisciplinary research

Graduate students in SLU's Department of Chemistry have access to a number of research tools, including:

- Bruker 400 and 700 MHz NMR spectrometers
- Bruker-EMX EPR, UV-Vis and FTIR spectrometers
- Research-grade spectrofluorometers
- GC-MS and LC-MS
- Electrochemical analyzers
- Gas chromatographs
- A scanning electron micrograph
- Computational facilities with modern molecular software
- A Bruker CCD X-ray diffractometer facility

Curriculum Overview

SLU's Ph.D. in chemistry requires a minimum of 39 post-baccalaureate credits, with at least 24 credits of coursework and 12 credits of dissertation research.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Our graduate students are active in the research areas of analytical, organic, physical, synthetic, materials, environmental and biological chemistry. Our research groups regularly publish in top-ranked journals and present at national and international conferences.

Research is externally supported by the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Petroleum Research Fund, and the American Heart Association, among others.

Careers

Doctoral graduates pursue different paths, including teaching, postdoctoral studies, or careers in industry or with government agencies, such as the FDA.

Past students from SLU's chemistry Ph.D. program have gone on to careers as research scientists, teachers, university faculty, and in various capacities in pharmaceutical companies and government agencies.

Admission Requirements

Applicants should possess sufficient GPA and TOEFL (if applicable) scores and a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Bachelor's degrees usually are in chemistry or biochemistry, although other science majors will be considered.

Admission normally requires a minimum of 18-semester credits (minimum 2.8 GPA) of upper-division undergraduate chemistry courses including organic chemistry (two semesters), quantitative analysis (one semester) and physical chemistry (two semesters). Students who do not meet these criteria may complete these prerequisites as part of their graduate program, though not for graduate credit.

Students who have not completed equivalent coursework in upper-level undergraduate "Inorganic Chemistry" and "Instrumental Analysis" will also be required to complete these courses but they can be taken for departmental graduate credit.

Application Requirements

- Application form and fee
- Three letters of recommendation
- Résumé
- Goal statement
- Interview (desired)

Requirements for International Students

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  - A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

Application Deadlines

Students who want to be considered for the summer and fall semesters must submit their application by Jan. 15. Students who want to be considered for the spring semester should apply by Oct. 1.

Review Process

A three-person committee votes whether to accept applicants.

Scholarships, Assistantships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for a graduate assistantship, apply by the program admission deadlines listed. Fellowships and assistantships provide a stipend and may include health insurance and a tuition scholarship for the duration of the award.

For more information, visit http://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/.

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate advanced level knowledge in both
a. synthesis and materials chemistry and
b. analytical and physical chemistry methods, with a higher level of
knowledge expected in the student's area of research.

2. Graduates will be able to use standard search tools and retrieval
methods to obtain information about a topic, substance, technique,
or an issue relating to chemistry and assess relevant studies from the
chemical literature.

3. Graduates will be able to communicate scientific findings from
literature and original findings from the student's own independent
research in written publications and oral presentations.

4. Graduates will be able to acquire the basic tools, including chemical
practices and theories, needed to conduct advanced chemical
research. Students will become proficient in their specialized area of
chemistry and complete an advanced, independent research project
resulting in peer-reviewed publications.

5. Graduates will be able to adhere to accepted ethical and professional
standards in chemistry.

### Requirements

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
--- | --- | ---

#### Synthesis and Materials Chemistry Courses

Select two of the following: 6

- CHEM 5160 Advanced Synthetic Chemistry
- CHEM 5400 Organic Spectroscopy
- CHEM 5440 Bioorganic Chemistry
- CHEM 5450 Advanced Organic Chemistry
- CHEM 5460 Synthetic Organic Chemistry
- CHEM 5470 Principles of Medicinal Chemistry
- CHEM 5500 Inorganic Chemistry
- CHEM 5550 Organometallic Chemistry
- CHEM 5560 Solid State Chemistry
- CHEM 5610 Biochemistry 1
- CHEM 5615 Biochemistry 2
- CHEM 5800 Fundamentals and Design of Nanomaterials

#### Analytical and Physical Methods Courses

Select two of the following: 6

- CHEM 5200 Analytical Chemistry II
- CHEM 5230 Mass Spectrometry
- CHEM 5260 Analytical Separations
- CHEM 5270 Electroanalytical Chemistry
- CHEM 5300 Mathematical Techniques in Chemistry
- CHEM 5370 Computational Chemistry
- CHEM 5390 Special Topics: Physical Chemistry
- CHEM 5450 Advanced Organic Chemistry
- CHEM 5570 Group Theory & Spectroscopy
- CHEM 5620 Biophysical Chemistry
- CHEM 5630 Fundamentals and Design of Nanomaterials

#### Required Research Courses

- CHEM 5970 Research Topics 3
- CHEM 6900 Dissertation Research (taken over multiple semesters) 12

#### Research Elective Courses

Select one of the following: 3

- CHEM 5299 Introduction to Analytical Research
- CHEM 5399 Introduction to Physical Research
- CHEM 5499 Introduction to Organic Research
- CHEM 5599 Introduction to Inorganic Research

#### Chemistry Elective

Chemistry courses listed above for synthesis and materials
chemistry or analytical and physical methods. Electives can also
be fulfilled by taking 5000-level courses in other disciplines such as
biology, math, computer science, engineering, and pharmacology with
approval by Graduate Program Coordinator and student’s committee.

**Total Credits** 39

### Non-Course Requirements

- Completion of research progress exam
- Completion of written comprehensive exam
- Completion of oral defense of research proposal
- A public oral presentation and a private oral examination

### Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00
in all graduate/professional courses.

### Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for
programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be
completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer
credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic
advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their
advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and
sequencing are subject to change.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Year One</strong></td>
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<td>Synthesis &amp; Materials Chemistry course (p. 3)</td>
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<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
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</table>
Year Two

**Fall**
Chemistry electives (p. 3) 3-6 Credits

**Spring**
Completion of Research Progress Exam
Chemistry electives (p. 3) 3-0 Credits

**Summer**
CHEM 6990 Dissertation Research (See information in Program Notes) † 3 Credits

Year Three

**Fall**
Completion of Written Comprehensive Exam
CHEM 6900 Introduction to Proposal Writing and Oral Presentations 3 Credits
CHEM 6990 Dissertation Research † 1 Credits

**Spring**
CHEM 6990 Dissertation Research † 2 Credits

**Summer**
CHEM 6990 Dissertation Research † 1 Credits

Year Four

**Fall**
CHEM 6990 Dissertation Research † 1 Credits

**Spring**
CHEM 6990 Dissertation Research † 1 Credits

**Summer**
CHEM 6990 Dissertation Research † 1 Credits

Year Five

**Fall**
CHEM 6990 Dissertation Research † 1 Credits

**Spring**
CHEM 6990 Dissertation Research † 1 Credits

**Total Credits** 39

† Students are required to complete a minimum of 12 credits of dissertation research. The number of credits can vary each semester, but a student cannot register for zero credits of research until the 12 credits have been completed.

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**Analytical and Physical Methods Courses**  
Must take two courses.

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**Chemistry Electives**  
Must take at least two courses.

Chemistry courses listed above for synthesis and materials chemistry or analytical and physical methods. Electives can also be fulfilled by taking 5000-level courses in other disciplines such as biology, math, computer science, engineering, and pharmacology with approval by the graduate program coordinator and the student’s committee.

**Contact Us**
For additional information about our program, please contact:

Dana Baum, Ph.D.
Chemistry Graduate Program Coordinator
chemgrad@slu.edu

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**Program Notes**

**Synthesis and Materials Chemistry Courses**  
Must take two courses.

**Analytical and Physical Methods Courses**  
Must take two courses.

**Chemistry Electives**  
Must take at least two courses.

Chemistry courses listed above for synthesis and materials chemistry or analytical and physical methods. Electives can also be fulfilled by taking 5000-level courses in other disciplines such as biology, math, computer science, engineering, and pharmacology with approval by the graduate program coordinator and the student’s committee.

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