The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry offers research-oriented programs culminating in the Doctor of Philosophy degree. Faculty in our department have expertise that spans a broad range of the traditional chemistry and biochemistry sub-disciplines including synthesis, spectroscopy, computational chemistry and biomolecular structure determination.

Faculty from our department have been recognized both nationally and internationally for their scientific accomplishments. MSU is an active research university that was recently recognized by the Carnegie Foundation in the “very high research activity” section.

Of all the departments in all of the colleges, Chemistry and Biochemistry leads the way with the highest levels of funding and highest per capita productivity. From this environment, our doctoral graduates emerge with a solid foundation in their discipline, well honed problem solving skills and outstanding career opportunities.

Our graduate program has been designed with care. We work hard to provide students with the training and mentoring that will enable them to develop into independent, critical thinking scientists and eventually become leaders in their chosen fields.

An appropriate combination of coursework and independent investigation is mapped out with guidance from faculty advisors. Depending on the nature of a student’s research project, courses can be taken in other departments on campus, and collaborative interactions with other research groups both within and outside of the department are quite common.

continued
We believe that at the conclusion of their graduate education at Montana State University, students should have professional command of the fundamentals of their disciplines and the ability to initiate new lines of creative research that address important, timely questions in their fields. During their graduate career, students are inspired to think independently and to critically analyze scientific problems that span discipline boundaries. A high level of creativity and originality in research is expected of candidates for a Ph.D. degree in chemistry or biochemistry.

WHY CHOOSE MSU?

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Montana State University has about 20 faculty members and 15-20 incoming graduate students per year. Therefore, MSU is the perfect place for students who prefer a more intimate learning environment with frequent interaction between students and faculty. The staff, faculty, research projects and facilities make our department an outstanding training ground for graduate students.

APPLYING TO OUR DEPARTMENT

Filling out and submitting an application form is the first step toward becoming a graduate student in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Apply online at www.chemistry.montana.edu. If you have any questions, email Doreen Brown at debrown@chemistry.montana.edu or call the main office at:

1-877-472-3776 (or, outside the U.S., 406-994-4802) or write to:
Doreen Brown, Graduate Program Director
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Montana State University Bozeman, MT 59717-3400

Please note that although you can apply through the MSU Graduate School, we prefer that you send your application directly to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. This saves time in the review process (as the Graduate Vice Provost’s office reroutes your application to us anyway) and allows us to waive the application fee. Along with your application form, you’ll also need to arrange for your GRE scores, three letters of recommendation and an official transcript to be sent to the address listed above.

DEPARTMENT HEAD

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FACULTY

David Singel, University of Chicago
Brian Bothner, University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Joan Broderick, Northwestern University
Patrik Callis, University of Washington
Mary Cloninger, University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Bern Kohler, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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