



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

Please Note: If you are interested in our Joint Doctoral Program (JDP) with University of California at San Diego (UCSD), you must first be admitted to SDSU's M.A. or M.S. program. You may apply to the JDP during your first year

HOW TO APPLY

To apply to the M.A. or M.S. program, you must submit the online CSU application at <http://www.csumentor.edu> and a Departmental Graduate Program Application, which can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.chemistry.sdsu.edu/graduate/forms>.

APPLICATION PERIODS

<i>Fall</i> Domestic	October 1-May 1	<i>Spring</i> Domestic	August 1-November 1
International	October 1-May 1	International	August 1-October 1

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Domestic

- Minimum GPA of 2.85*, both overall and in chemistry courses.
- Bachelor's degree in chemistry or a related subject.
- Minimum overall score of 900 (verbal + quantitative) on the general GRE exam.
- Three current recommendations acknowledging the applicant's academic and research capabilities.
- Departmental Graduate Program Application (available on department web site at <http://www.chemistry.sdsu.edu/graduate/forms>)

International

- Minimum GPA of 3.00, both overall and in chemistry courses.
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent in chemistry or a related subject.
- Minimum overall score of 900 (verbal + quantitative) on the general GRE exam.
- If English is a second language and undergraduate degree was not earned at an English-speaking institution, applicant must submit scores from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS). To qualify for admission, a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper version), 213 (computer version) or 80 (internet version), or minimum IELTS score of 6.5 is required. Test scores must be sent directly from the testing agency to the university.
- Three current recommendations acknowledging the applicant's academic and research capabilities.
- Departmental Graduate Program Application (available on department web site at <http://www.chemistry.sdsu.edu/graduate/forms>)

Additional information on the requirements specific to prospective international students can be found on the International Student Center web site at <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/isc>.

*GPA is calculated from last 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of letter-graded coursework.

TRANSCRIPTS & TEST SCORES

DO NOT send test scores or transcripts to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry! Test scores must be sent directly from the testing agency to SDSU's Graduate Admissions office. Official

transcripts should be sent directly from each school attended to the university's Graduate Admissions office. If that is not possible, please make sure they are sent in sealed, unopened envelopes to the following address:

Graduate Admissions
Enrollment Services
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 91282-7416

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

All other items should be sent to the department. This includes the Departmental Graduate Program Application, three letters of recommendation (in a sealed envelope with a signature over the seal), and a statement of purpose, as well as any other material you may wish to submit. Send these items directly to the department at the following address:

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Attn: Graduate Admissions Advisor
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-1030

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial support for qualified graduate students is provided in the form of teaching and research assistantships. Most candidates admitted to the M.S. program are supported on teaching assistantships with some research assistantships available for second-year students. All doctoral students are supported with either teaching or research assistantships. **Please note** that a minimum GPA of 3.00 is required for teaching assistants. If you would like to be considered for a teaching assistantship you must indicate this on the Departmental Graduate Program Application. If you are interested in additional financial support, please visit the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships web site at <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/fao>.

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

SDSU provides excellent opportunities for graduate work in chemistry at the M.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degree levels. All major areas of chemistry are represented: analytical, inorganic, physical and organic chemistry as well as biochemistry. The program is large enough to offer a variety of course and research options, yet small enough that you will not get lost in the crowd. Each of our graduate students is important to us and we strive to give each student the personal attention needed to make sure his or her graduate career at SDSU is both successful and rewarding. To accommodate students in all of our graduate programs, graduate courses are offered during the late afternoon and in the evening whenever possible.

The Master of Arts degree consists of 30 units of graduate credit, at least 24 of which are in chemistry. The degree is offered under the non-thesis option, and the final requirement is to write a paper approved by the department graduate advisor. This program is ideal for students who would like to build their classroom knowledge but are not looking for research experience. Many people employed in local industries choose this route.

We offer a strong Master of Science program with both coursework and research requirements. The M.S. degree at SDSU is a well respected, research-based degree which is ideal for students who want essential research experience in preparation for a career or for advancement toward the Ph.D. degree. Graduates from our M.S. degree program have been very successful in obtaining jobs, particularly in the southern California area. Requirements include the completion of 30 units of graduate credit and the successful oral defense of a research thesis.

The Ph.D. degree is offered jointly with the University of California at San Diego (UCSD) Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. We do not admit applicants directly into the Joint Doctoral Program (JDP). You must first be admitted to the M.A. or M.S. program, and you may apply to the JDP during your first year with the support of your research advisor. Our program is unique because it gives students an opportunity to strengthen their academic record and to begin focusing on research projects before committing themselves to the rigors of Ph.D. work. Students in the UCSD-SDSU Joint Doctoral Program are admitted into the graduate programs of both institutions and spend one year in full-time residence at UCSD, during which they take courses and serve as teaching assistants for one quarter. The remainder of the coursework and research for the Ph.D. degree are carried out under the direction of a faculty member at SDSU. Students in the JDP are required to pass a qualifying examination in order to advance to candidacy for their degree. Candidates must then complete a dissertation based on their research, which must be successfully defended to a joint committee consisting of faculty members from both UCSD and SDSU.

DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is located in the Chemical Sciences Laboratory (CSL) and the Geology, Math, and Computer Science (GMCS) buildings on the northeast corner of campus. The CSL building provides more than 40,000 sq. ft. of laboratory and office space. Equipment available in the department includes an NMR facility with 4 spectrometers (200 MHz, 400 MHz, 500MHz, and 600 MHz), state-of-the-art X-Ray Diffractometers for large and small molecules, a Mass Spectrometer facility with GC/MS and LC/MS, numerous additional instruments and a dedicated machine shop.

More information is available on our web site at <http://www.chemistry.sdsu.edu>. If you have any questions regarding the department, the graduate program, or the admissions process please feel free to contact the department at cheminfo@sciences.sdsu.edu or the Graduate Admissions Advisor, Dr. Grotjahn, at 619-594-0231 or grotjahn@chemistry.sdsu.edu.