Department: Chemistry and Biochemistry

Degree Objective: Master in Science in Chemistry

The Master's degree program in Chemistry at Cal State LA are designed to provide a broad experience in the chemical or biochemical sciences while developing critical writing and presentation skills as well as laboratory manipulative techniques. They will provide the foundation for professional work or future education.

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is dedicated to providing a high-quality education in the disciplines of chemistry and biochemistry in an environment that encourages hands-on research participation by students. A research project is required in all options in the MS Chemistry program, and at the undergraduate level can be used for elective credit.

What can I do with this degree? What kind of jobs do people with this degree typically obtain?

The research-based Master of Science degree programs prepare students for supervisory and product development positions in industry, teaching positions in community colleges, or more advanced study toward the Ph.D. degree in chemistry, biochemistry, or in the molecular life sciences.

A Comprehensive Examination option is available for those who desire a current understanding of chemistry and other specific areas of chemical application in which an advanced degree is beneficial. It is not recommended for persons who wish to continue to a doctoral program in chemistry, nor for those who intend to significantly upgrade their laboratory research capabilities.

Will this master's program prepare me for a Ph.D. program?

Yes, in particular, the research-based Master of Science degree programs (Thesis option or Biochemistry option) will prepare you for more advanced study toward the Ph.D. degree in chemistry, biochemistry, or in the molecular life sciences.

How do I apply to your graduate program?

You must fulfill the following two application steps by the deadlines indicated below.

1. Apply to the University through the website: https://www2.calstate.edu/apply and complete your application to the University by April 15, 2019.
2. Apply to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and complete your application to the University by April 15, 2019. The application form and instruction can be found at http://www.calstatela.edu/dept/chem/gradprograms.htm and a previous application form can be found at http://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/users/u1491/chem_biochem_application_march_15_deadline.pdf.

What is the GPA requirement for admissions?

All applicants are required to have a 2.5 grade point average in their last 60 semester units attempted.

Does your program require the GRE?

No

How many recommendation letters does your degree program require?

Two
Whom should I get the recommendation letters from, professors or employers?

Arrange to have two letters of reference written on your behalf by science, engineering, or mathematics faculty members. One of the letters can be from a supervisor in scientific industry or teaching.

Do you have any tips on how to write a personal statement?

In an essay of not more than 1000 words, respond to the following:

1). How will a Master’s of Science degree in Chemistry (or in the Biochemistry option) help you achieve your career goals?

2). Explain how your background has helped prepare you for success in our graduate program.

3). If applicable, explain any discrepancy between your grades in academic coursework and your talents and potential.

4). If applicable, describe any experience you have in research; working in science education; scientific industry; or other related areas.

The Graduate Program Admissions Committee will use your responses to assess your interest in our MS program and also your ability to express your ideas through writing.

When do you accept students into your graduate program in Fall or Spring or both?

Only in Fall

What are the admission deadlines?

You can find the University and Department Deadlines at this website: www.calstatela.edu/admissions/deadlines

What is the cost to attend graduate school?

You can find information regarding tuition and fees on the Student Financial Services website at http://www.calstatela.edu/sfinserv/cashiers-office

Does your department offer any GA or TA positions? If so, what is the eligibility requirement to apply for a GA or TA position?

Yes. If you are interested in GA and TA positions, please submit the following requirements to Department Office.

Requirements for GA:
- 2 letters of recommendation
- official transcripts
- social security card
- resume/CV
- application for employment form
- Sign SU-6 & GA guideline forms in the office
- Make sure Lab Safety Training is up to date.

Requirements for TA:
1. CSULA Application
2. 3 letters of recommendation that are no older than 2 years old
3. Resume/CV
4. Transcripts
5. Copy of current class schedule.
6. SU-06 form & description of duties.
7. Supervisor’s safety orientation checklist for laboratories.
8. 1-9 Cleared before working. (Take social security card to HRM)

**Is this degree program co-horted?**
Yes, partially. There are foundational skills classes that our entering class of graduate students enroll in together in the first 3 semesters.

**How long will it take me to complete the degree if I enroll in 3 or 6 units per semester?**
Unit Requirement: Completion of at least 30 semester units in approved courses, of which at least half (15 units) must be graduate (5000-level) courses. Therefore, it will take you at least 5 years (10 semesters) if you enroll 3 units per semester or take you at least 2.5 years (5 semesters) if you enroll 6 units per semester.

**How long will it take me to complete the degree if I enrolled in 9 or 12 units per semester?**
Unit Requirement: Completion of at least 30 semester units in approved courses, of which at least half (15 units) must be graduate (5000-level) courses. Therefore, it will take you at least 2 years (4 semesters) if you enroll 9 units per semester or take you at least 1.5 years (3 semesters) if you enroll 12 units per semester.

**Do you offer any Winter Intersessions classes or any classes during the Summer?**
Yes, we offer some undergraduate courses in the summer. Check the details in Professional and Global Education (http://www.calstatela.edu/page)

**When are your graduate classes typically offered during the day or at night?**
During the day. We have many classes in late afternoons.

**Whom can I contact in the department, if I have additional questions?**
Graduate Advisor: Dr. Xin Wen xwen3@calstatela.edu 323-343-2310

Department Chair: Dr. Alison McCurdy amccurd@exchange.calstatela.edu 323-343-2300

**Are there any additional resources or funding opportunities for graduate student at CSULA?**
For resources and funding opportunities, please visit the Graduate Studies webpage at http://www.calstatela.edu/graduatesudies . In addition, please see that there are several externally-funded grant programs that have funded research positions http://www.calstatela.edu/dept/chem/grant.htm Also, some faculty have research grants that include stipends for students.