

# Carleton

Department of Chemistry

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Greetings,

Congratulations on your acceptance to Carleton! Dean Rodriguez tells me that you might be interested in majoring in chemistry. Let me tell you a few things about the Chemistry Department, which might help in your decision. Please visit our [department's website](#) for more complete information.

Our primary goal is to provide the best possible undergraduate instruction. In searching for new [faculty](#) we seek out talented scientists who will also be inspiring teachers. Our department values quality classroom instruction, offers inquiry-based project-oriented lab experiences, teaches through undergraduate research, and promotes a collaborative learning environment between students and faculty. We average 30 majors per class. One of the most positive aspects of our program is the enthusiasm, intellectual curiosity, and cooperative spirit of our chemistry majors. Most of our majors participate in off-campus study, usually in areas outside of chemistry. We credit the Admissions Office with assembling an excellent student body, a set of classmates who will be crucial players in your intellectual life at Carleton.

Participation in faculty [research projects](#) is a popular and transformative opportunity for our students. Ten to twenty students from a variety of class years work full-time each summer on research projects in chemistry. Others do independent study or research projects during the academic year, and many others pursue research opportunities off campus during the summers. The faculty offer a diverse range of projects in synthetic, biological, analytical, environmental, physical, and computational chemistry.

We offer many informal occasions for intellectual development. Almost every week we have a chemistry seminar with an outside speaker who brings us up to date on a new cutting-edge research area. Students and faculty also gather for lunch at the "Periodic Table" on a weekly basis. Our department firmly believes that informal contact with our students is just as important our formal work in the classroom and laboratory.

We have recently moved into a state-of-the-art integrated science facility, which houses the Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Physics and Astronomy, and Psychology departments. In our teaching labs (limited to 24 students, even fewer in our upper-level laboratories), hands-on work is supervised by the faculty with the support of student teaching assistants. There are no additional laboratory charges for our students.

Approximately one-third of [our chemistry graduates pursue a graduate degree](#) in chemistry or related field, one-third pursue a medical degree, and one-third pursue other opportunities, such as high school teaching or working in non-profit or for-profit organizations. Carleton graduates more women who go on to obtain their PhDs in chemistry than many institutions two or three times our size. We hope that you will find the chemistry department to be an inspiring and supportive environment for exploring your interests in the molecular world. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions either by phone 507-222-4530 or email [mwhited@carleton.edu](mailto:mwhited@carleton.edu).

Best regards,  
Matt Whited



Chair, Chemistry Department

