

**University of Louisville (UofL)**  
**Department of Chemistry**

**Graduate Admissions**

**Most Import Webpages:**

Chemistry Graduate Studies and Admission:

<https://louisville.edu/chemistry/academics/graduate-studies>

Contact:

- the Director of Graduate Admissions for admissions questions regarding the Chemistry Graduate Program;
- the Director of Graduate Studies for general questions about the Chemistry Graduate Program.

Important Dates, Minimum Requirements, and Required Application Material:

<https://louisville.edu/chemistry/academics/graduate-studies/application-material.html>

Chemistry Graduate Student Handbook:

[https://louisville.edu/chemistry/academics/graduate-studies/GraduateStudentHandbookAugust2017\\_8817.pdf](https://louisville.edu/chemistry/academics/graduate-studies/GraduateStudentHandbookAugust2017_8817.pdf)

Online Graduate Application

<https://louisville.edu/graduate/futurestudents/apply-materials/application>

**Other Contact Information**

Contact specific professors if you are interested in their research and joining their groups.

Chemistry Faculty Members:

<https://louisville.edu/chemistry/faculty>

For application status:

[deptchem@louisville.edu](mailto:deptchem@louisville.edu)

(502) 852-6798

Graduate School

2211 S Brook St, Houchens Bldg, Rm 105

Louisville, Kentucky 40292

The United States of America

[gradadm@louisville.edu](mailto:gradadm@louisville.edu)

(502) 852-6495

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

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### **About Our Ph.D. Program, our Department, UofL, and the City of Louisville:**

**Q: Do Ph.D. students in the Department of Chemistry need to pay tuition out of their own pocket?**

A: No, their tuition is covered by the Department. The typical duration of support is five years.

**Q: What is the stipend for your Ph.D. students?**

A: The current annual stipend for our Ph.D. students is \$25,000. The typical duration of financial support by the Department is five years.

**Q: What types of financial aid are available for Chemistry Ph.D. students?**

A: All Chemistry Ph.D. students receive financial support through the following scholarships for a minimum of five years. This support is contingent upon maintaining a satisfactory academic record and achieving the necessary milestones toward their Ph.D. degree.

- Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) - All full-time applicants are considered. GTA positions provide an annual stipend of \$25,000 plus tuition, fees, and health insurance. GTAs spend 15-20 hours/week leading recitations, supervising undergraduate laboratories, and/or grading assignments.
- Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) - Once a student joins a research group, they may be supported by their mentor as a GRA.
- University Fellowships (UFs) - Outstanding applicants will be considered for University Fellowships. University Fellows receive the same stipend, tuition, fees, and insurance as GTAs but are not required to teach.

There are also other fellowships available for exceptional applicants.

**Q: If admitted to the Ph.D. program in your Department, how do I maintain my scholarship?**

A: Maintain GPA, pass Cumulative Exams, participate in Literature and Research Seminars, and successfully defend your dissertation. More details in the Graduate Student Handbook:

<https://louisville.edu/chemistry/academics/graduate-studies/ChemistryGraduateStudentHandbook2.pdf>

**Q: How many openings are available for fall/spring?**

A: The number of open positions varies each year but is typically between 10 and 15 for the Fall and 3 to 5 for the Spring.

**Q: What is your annual international student enrollment?**

A: We evaluate students from all countries based on the quality of their applications with no limits or quotas for domestic or international applicants. Typically, ¼ to 1/3 of our graduate students are domestic. We have students from Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America.

**Q: I am currently a sophomore. Is it too early for me to start preparing my graduate school applications?**

A: We're glad you're preparing early! Feel free to contact our Admissions Committee and your preferred professors (see "Contact Information" above).

**Q: What is the cost of living in Louisville?**

A: Louisville's living cost is relatively low compared to major cities in the U.S. Monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment is approximately \$1,000 or lower, and your stipend should comfortably cover living expenses and family support.

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**Eligibility and Minimum Requirements**

**Q: Can I apply only for the M.S. program in your Department?**

A: Our Department primarily admits Ph.D. students and provides financial support to Ph.D. students only. We may consider admitting you as a M.S. student if you are self-supported and do not require tuition coverage and scholarship from the Department.

**Q: Can I pursue a Master's in Chemistry first, then subsequently a Doctorate at UofL?**

A: Our Department primarily admits Ph.D. students and provides financial support to Ph.D. students only. Our Ph.D. students receive their Master's after they meet certain requirements.

The requirements for a Master of Science (thesis or non-thesis) in Chemistry can be found on Pages 6-8 of the Chemistry Graduate Student Handbook: [https://louisville.edu/chemistry/academics/graduate-studies/GraduateStudentHandbookAugust2017\\_8817.pdf](https://louisville.edu/chemistry/academics/graduate-studies/GraduateStudentHandbookAugust2017_8817.pdf)

**Q: Do I need to secure a future Ph.D. supervisor before applying?**

A: You're encouraged (but not required) to contact professors of interest before applying and mention them in your Personal Statement. But it is not mandatory. The faculty list of the Chemistry Department can be found at:

<https://louisville.edu/chemistry/faculty>

**Q: Can graduates from fields related to Chemistry, such as Biology, Chemical Engineering, Chemical Physics, Industrial Chemistry, Material Science, etc., apply for your Ph.D. program?**

A: Yes, students with degrees in areas closely related to chemistry may apply. It is expected that students will have obtained a background in chemistry equivalent to 36 hours of undergraduate coursework..

**Q: What is the minimum undergraduate GPA requirement?**

A: The minimum GPA to receive a Graduate Teaching Assistantship is 3.0/4.0. The minimum GPA for University Fellows is 3.25/4.00.

**Q: Will my application be reviewed if my GPA or TOEFL score is slightly below the minimum requirements?**

A: Yes, the Admissions Committee will review your application.

**Q: What are the minimum requirements for English proficiency tests??**

A: For all international students from non-native English-speaking countries, an English proficiency test is required. We accept TOEFL, IELTS, and Duolingo scores. A minimum score of 70 on the TOEFL, 6.5 on the IELTS, or 105 for Duolingo are required to meet the minimum requirements. Please see the [Appendix](#) for more information on English proficiency tests.

**Q: Is the GRE score mandatory?**

A: No, GRE scores are not mandatory for application. However, having a good GRE score(s) (General and/or Subject) will strengthen your application.

**Q: Should I apply?/Will I be admitted to your Ph.D. program?**

A: All applications that meet the minimum requirements are encouraged to apply and will be considered. We cannot advise prospective applicants on their specific chances of admission.

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### **Application Procedure**

**Q: Is there a deadline for applications?**

A: Application review starts on September 15 for the Spring admission and January 15 for the Fall admission.

Fall admission: Applications received by January 15 will receive full consideration for all fellowships and graduate teaching assistantships (GTAs). Applications received after that date will be considered until all available positions are filled.

Spring admission: Applications for Spring admissions should be submitted by September 15. Spring applicants will be considered for a limited number of GTA positions until all positions are filled. Students not admitted in the Spring may request the Graduate School to transfer their application to Fall admission.

**Q: Must I wait until after I take the English proficiency test before applying?**

A: You may initiate your application prior to taking the English proficiency test. This is strongly encouraged if you are applying near or after the beginning of the application review date. The Admissions Committee will review your application without the test scores. However, your application will not be complete until scores are received.

**Q: What is the University of Louisville's code for GRE & TOEFL?**

A: University of Louisville's code for the GRE and TOEFL is 1838.

**Q: Will there be an interview?**

A: Selected applicants will be interviewed via Microsoft Teams in late September for Spring admission and late January for Fall admission.

**Q: When are admission decisions made?**

A: Decisions are typically made in early October for Spring admission and early February for Fall admission. The Admissions Committee will continue reviewing applications until all positions are filled.

**Q: When will I be notified of the admission decision?**

A: Official Offer Letters are typically sent one or two weeks after the Admissions Committee's decision.

**Q: If my Spring semester application is pending, should I apply again for the Fall semester?**

A: The Admissions Committee will inform you of their decision on your application soon after it is made. So, please wait for our notification before reapplying.

**Q: If my application for the Spring semester is declined, do I need to reapply for the next?**

A: Contact the Graduate School to transfer your application to the Fall semester. Please notify the Admissions Committee if you have new documents that you can include, such as test scores, publications, and conference presentations.

**Q: It is my intention to pay my own tuition, and I do not need financial support from the Department of Chemistry. Are requirements different for self-funded applicants?**

A: No, but self-funded applicants may be considered for the M.S. program.

**Q: Can I visit UofL before applying?**

A: Absolutely! Contact the Admissions Committee to arrange your visit.

**Q: How will I know that my application is complete?**

A: You will receive an email from the Chemistry Department once all of your application materials are received.

**Q: Who should I contact for application status?**

A: Contact us at [deptchem@louisville.edu](mailto:deptchem@louisville.edu) or 502-852-6798) for the current application status.

**Q: Is funding guaranteed if admitted to the Ph.D. program?**

A: Yes, through GTA, UF, or GRA.

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## **Application Materials**

### **A: What is included in an application package?**

A: The required application documents are:

- Online Application ([graduate.louisville.edu/apply](http://graduate.louisville.edu/apply))
- Application fee
- Official copies of ALL undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- Recommendation Letters (minimum of 2)
- Personal statement of research interests and career plans
- Official copies of English proficiency test scores (If English is not the primary language)

### **Q: Where do I find the online application form?**

A: The online application form can be found at <http://graduate.louisville.edu/apply>

### **Q: Can I upload unofficial transcripts and English proficiency test reports when submitting my application online?**

A: Yes, you may submit unofficial copies of transcripts, English proficiency test results, and GRE scores initially. However, official documents must be submitted online to complete your application.

### **Q: Is submitting an official transcript and test results required initially?**

A: No, it's not a prerequisite for the initial review of your application.

### **Q: Will I need to submit official documents after admission confirmation?**

A: Yes, official transcripts, test reports, and course evaluations are required after admission confirmation.

**Q: I am an international student. The Graduate School of UofL requires all foreign transcripts to be evaluated through an NACES-approved member (<https://www.naces.org/members#>) to provide a course-by-course evaluation that includes my GPA. How does this work, and what should I do?**

A: Use NACES-approved services like

World Education Service (WES): <https://www.wes.org/>

or

Educational Credential Evaluation (ECE): <https://www.ece.org/>.

Request that your evaluated transcripts and GPA be sent to UofL's Graduate Admissions office:

University of Louisville  
Graduate Admissions  
2211 South Brook Street  
Houchens Building Suite 105  
Louisville, KY 40292

OR

request to have your transcripts sent to the Graduate School by email at: [gradadm@louisville.edu](mailto:gradadm@louisville.edu).

**Q: Do I need to submit my WES or ECE evaluation with my initial application?**

A: No, the Admissions Committee will review your application without these evaluations. However, official evaluations must be submitted for admission.

**Q: Does UofL accept PTE test results for English proficiency evaluation?**

A: No.

**Q: I am an international student. If my education was in English, am I exempt from TOEFL or IELTS tests?**

A: Please see the [Appendix](#): “Proof of English Language Proficiency” (on the last page) from the Graduate School. Contact the Graduate School at [gradadm@louisville.edu](mailto:gradadm@louisville.edu) if you have more questions regarding this.

**Q: Can I request an application fee waiver?**

A: An application is not processed without the fee being received or waived. The Chemistry Department may consider fee waivers for exceptional applicants. Please send your request to [deptchem@louisville.edu](mailto:deptchem@louisville.edu) with the subject line “Request for Application Fee Waiver.” Attach your application materials to your email.

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**After Receiving an Offer – Congratulations!**

**Q: Can I visit the UofL campus and the Chemistry Department before accepting the offer?**

A: Absolutely! We encourage visits to our campus and Department. The Department may cover your travel and accommodation expenses for domestic applicants. Please contact the Admissions Committee for arrangements.

**Q: When do I need to inform you of my decision on your offer?**

A: Please let us know your decision at your earliest convenience, especially if you are an international student and need to obtain an F1 visa.

**I am an international student. Will the Chemistry Department assist me with U.S. visa applications?**

A: Yes, the Admissions Committee will provide a support letter for your visa application. Additionally, contact UofL’s International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) for further assistance.

<https://louisville.edu/internationalcenter/iss>

**Q: Can I transfer credits from my M.S. degree to UofL?**

A: According to the Chemistry Graduate Student Handbook (see Page 3), up to 2 courses may be waived for students entering with an M.S. degree in chemistry (or a closely related field with

consent of the Chemistry Director of Graduate Studies). For each course waived, the student must receive an A- or higher in a graduate chemistry lecture course at UofL.

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Appendix:

## **Proof of English Language Proficiency**

The University of Louisville welcomes international students from over 80 countries. International students must meet the same admission requirements as U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents but may be required to submit additional admissions requirements based on language proficiency and educational credentials.

All applicants for whom English is not the native language must also submit proof of English proficiency.

TOEFL	79 iBT, 213 cBT, 550 pBT	<a href="http://www.ets.org/toefl">http://www.ets.org/toefl</a>
IELTS	6.5 (no sub-score lower than 5)	<a href="http://www.ielts.org/">http://www.ielts.org/</a>
Duolingo English Test	105	<a href="https://englishtest.duolingo.com">https://englishtest.duolingo.com</a>

The University of Louisville does not accept PTE scores.

Proof of Language proficiency is waived for International Students with citizenship from one of the following English-speaking countries:

American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada (except Quebec), Cayman Islands, Christmas Island, Cook Islands, Denmark, Dominica, England, Eswatini (Swaziland), Falkland Islands, Fiji, Finland, The Gambia, Ghana, Gibraltar, Grand Cayman Islands, Grenada, Guam, Guyana, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Montserrat, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Niue, Norfolk Islands, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Scotland, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, St. Helena, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sweden, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom, Vanuatu, Virgin Islands, Wales, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Students holding a bachelor's or advanced degree from an accredited institution in countries such as the United States, Canada (except Quebec), the U.K., and Australia may also be exempt from this requirement.

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