

University of Louisville (UofL)

Department of Chemistry

Graduate Admissions

Updated: August 20, 2024

Import websites

Chemistry Graduate Studies:

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

Required Application Materials:

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

Chemistry Graduate Student Handbook:

https://louisville.edu/chemistry/academics/graduate-studies/GraduateStudentHandbookAugust2017_8817.pdf

Online Graduate Application

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

Contact Information

General questions about the chemistry graduate program:

Prof. Muriel Maurer
Director of Graduate Studies
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Chemistry graduate admissions questions:

Prof. Andrew Wilson
Director of Graduate Admissions
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Questions about the application:

Patriece Campbell-Palmer
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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 typically either through a Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Graduate Research Assistantship, or other fellowship. 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 \$26,000. The typical duration of financial support 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 \$26,000 plus tuition 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, and insurance benefits 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 original research proposal and dissertation. More details are found 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, 25 – 33% of our graduate students are domestic. We have students from Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, and North 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: How do professors in your department assist graduate students with their research projects and studies?

A: Different research groups may have different cultures, and different professors may have different styles when it comes to mentoring. But, all our faculty members educate and train their graduate students with care and patience. We will do our best to ensure your future success.

Q: What kind of opportunities are available for students to publish in scientific journals and present their research at conferences to share their research findings?

A: Graduate students are encouraged and required to report their research progress and outcomes in scientific publications and conferences.

Q: Do professors in your department collaborate each other?

A: Modern science is highly interdisciplinary. Professors in our department collaborate with each other extensively and closely. We also have close collaboration with researchers in other departments and outside of the University of Louisville as well.

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 an 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 degree 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

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 Department of Chemistry 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. For example, strong research experience can increase the competitiveness of your application in the case your GPA or TOEFL scores are lower than the minimum.

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 213 on the computer-based test, 550 on the paper-based test, or 79 on the internet-based test is required on the TOEFL. An score of at least 6.5 overall band is accepted for the IELTS. Duolingo English test scores must be a minimum of 105. 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: How does prior research experience or lack of it impact the application decision?

A: Having previous research experience will strengthen your application. You should include it in your CV and personal statement. If you have any publications, you may consider including them in your application package, too. However, having no previous research experience does

not mean that you will not be considered for admission or be admitted to our Ph.D. program. We will consider your potential as a successful Ph.D. student.

Q: Will a long-period gap or break in my education or work experience negatively affect my application?

A: Not necessarily. We understand different circumstances and options in life. Please consider addressing the gap or break in your personal statement.

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.

Q: I am a person with disabilities. Can I apply for your Ph.D. program?

A: We respect and appreciate students who made great achievements in spite of all the challenges in their lives. We will assist you in your application process. If you are admitted to our department, we will provide all necessary resources and support to make sure that you will continue to flourish in our department. The University of Louisville also has institutions to help challenged students, including a Disability Resource Center (<https://louisville.edu/disability>).

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Application Procedure

Q: Is there a deadline for applications?

A: Application review starts on August 15 for the Spring admission and December 1 for the Fall admission.

Fall admission: Applications received by December 1 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 August 15. Spring applicants will be considered for a limited number of GTA positions until all positions are filled.

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 virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Q: What kind of questions will be asked during the admission interviews? And how long will it last?

A: The interview usually takes about 30 minutes. During the interview, we will introduce the University of Louisville and the Department of Chemistry and ask you about your educational background, training, research experiences, and career goals. We will then discuss your future research interests. Finally, the Admissions Committee will gladly answer any questions you may have about the program, university, or city.

Q: When are admission decisions made?

A: Decisions are typically made in by October for Spring admission and by January 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. If you are not admitted, then you are welcome to re-apply for future semesters. Applicants may contact the Graduate School to have their application materials transferred to a new application in the online portal.

Q: If my application for the Spring semester is declined, do I need to re-apply for the next?

A: Yes, you will need to re-apply. 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: The online application portal will inform you if you are missing application materials and when your application is complete.

Q: Who should I contact for application status?

A: Contact gradchem@louisville.edu for the current application status.

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

A: Yes, through GTA, UF, or GRA for five years.

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Application Materials

Q: What is included in an application package?

A: The required application documents are:

- Online application (graduate.louisville.edu/apply)
- Application fee
- Official copies of ALL undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- Recommendation letters (minimum of 2)

- Personal statement of research experience, future research interests, potential research mentors, career plans, etc.
- Resume/CV
- 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 if you are offered admission to a graduate program.

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 have a Bachelor's degree in Technology. The Graduate School Application webpage does not have a B.Tech as a choice for undergraduate degrees. What should I do?

A: Choose B.Sc. or B.Eng, according to your undergraduate major.

Q: The Graduate School Application webpage lists a "Writing Sample" as an optical application document. Do I need to submit a writing sample?

A: No. If you cannot complete your application due to this issue, please send your request to the Graduate School at gradadm@louisville.edu.

Q: I am an international student. Do I need to submit an evaluation of my transcripts when I submit my applicaiton?

A: No. You will be asked to do so when the Graduate Admissions Committee considers to issue an offer to you.

Q: I am an international student. The Graduate School at 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.

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 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 Department of Chemistry may consider fee waivers for exceptional applicants. Please send your request to the Director of Graduate Admissions with the subject line “[Last Name]_[Last Name]_Request for Application Fee Waiver.” Attach your application materials in a single PDF file to your email. Please ensure all application materials are included because incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

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After Receiving an Offer – Congratulations!

Q: Can I visit the UofL campus and the Department of Chemistry 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.

Q: I am an international student. Will the Department of Chemistry 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: The U.S. Embassy requires F1 visa applicants to submit a document called "Study Plan" or "Research Plan. Where can I get it?

A: Please contact the Chair of the Admissions Committee.

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	http://www.ets.org/toefl
IELTS	6.5 (no sub-score lower than 5)	http://www.ielts.org/
Duolingo English Test	105	https://englishtest.duolingo.com

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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