

College of Arts and Sciences Foundation Profile

Department of Chemistry and Physics

I. General Description

The Department of Chemistry and Physics provides comprehensive, student-centered education leading to Bachelors degrees in chemistry and physics. Students gain knowledge and problem-solving skills through rigorous lecture and laboratory course work as well as through challenging independent research experiences. We are committed to preparing students to pursue careers as scientists, engineers, teachers, and health professionals. We contribute to the scientific literacy of students in other disciplines through our general education courses. Faculty advance knowledge through their own research and provide service to the University and scientific communities, as well as to the public.

II. Points of Pride

- More than 80% of ISU chemistry and physics majors who complete the MCAT exam and apply for admission to medical school are admitted to their first choice of medical school.
- Despite alarmingly low numbers of physics majors nationwide, the department graduated six majors last year, including two males and four females.
- Externally funded grants in excess of three million dollars have been spearheaded by members of the department over the past three years.
- The department sends 8-10 chemistry and physics students each year to a National American Chemical Society or American Physical Society Meeting to present the results of their undergraduate research.
- The chemistry program was ranked in the top 10% of undergraduate degree programs in the ISU College of Arts and Sciences.

III. Vision

Our vision is to fulfill each aspect of our Mission Statement by continually being at the forefront of our disciplines in terms of knowledge, facilities, instrumentation, research agendas, and the most effective models of teaching and learning.

IV. Opportunities for Philanthropic Support

- *Endowed Faculty Research Fund:* Provide research funding to one or more chemistry or physics faculty members each year to carry out collaborative research with undergraduate students. Minimum of \$100,000 for a named research fund.
- *Endowed Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship:* Provide a stipend each year for an undergraduate student to conduct research during our 10-week Summer Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE) program. Minimum of \$50,000 for one named fellowship.
- *Endowed Scholarships:* Provide full or partial tuition and fees for a student who is majoring in chemistry or physics. Minimum of \$20,000 for a named scholarship.
- *Endowed Student and Faculty Travel Grants:* Provide financial support for students and faculty to travel to a professional meeting to present the results of their research. Minimum of \$20,000 for a named travel grant.
- *Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships:* Provide a stipend for an undergraduate student to conduct research during our 10-week Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program. \$3,500 for one full-time stipend or \$1,750 for one half-time stipend for one summer.
- *Travel Grant or Scholarship:* Provide a one-time scholarship for a student or a one-time travel grant for a faculty member or student. \$1,000.