CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

The Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering (http://www.colorado.edu/chbe/academics/why-chbe-graduate-school) (ChBE) offers an innovative graduate program and emphasizes the doctoral degree. ChBE’s outstanding national and international students take advantage of the high level of faculty-student collaboration and benefit from access to three interdisciplinary research centers. Department faculty and students have won numerous awards both nationally and internationally.

General research areas within the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering include: biomaterials, biopharmaceutical engineering, catalysis, surface science and reaction engineering, complex fluids and microfluidic devices, computational science; energy and environmental applications, membranes and separations, metabolic engineering and directed evolution, nanostructured films and devices, polymer chemistry and engineering, and tissue engineering.

ChBE is one of the top research departments in the nation and maintains sophisticated facilities to support research endeavors. Although research in the department spans many diverse fields, there is a particular emphasis on research in biological engineering, functional materials, and renewable energy.

Biological engineering research includes a broad collection of focal areas spanning from the molecular scale (metabolites, genes, proteins) to the cellular and multicellular scales. Biological engineering projects account for a significant portion of the research activity within the ChBE Department. This research is supported in a variety of manners: federal grants (NIH, NSF, DOD, etc.), national foundations (Howard Hughes, Cystic Fibrosis, etc.), and industrial collaborators.

Functional Materials research in the ChBE Department is concentrated in a diverse group of research areas including polymers, nanostructured materials, photovoltaic materials, ultrathin films, catalytic materials, computational materials science, self-assembled monolayers, and liquid crystalline materials. The department has strength in studying materials problems at the nanometer and sub-nanometer length scales. Such fundamental investigations are directed toward technological applications.

Finally, the ChBE Department has an active program in renewable energy research. Studies range from the production and utilization of hydrogen to materials for photovoltaics to biorefining and biofuels research. A number of efforts focus on developing catalysts for converting water to hydrogen and CO₂ into fuels such as CO and methanol. Another area of focus is the study of novel photovoltaic materials and structures involving organic, inorganic, and hybrid structures for efficient solar energy harvesting.

Course code for this program is CHEN.

Master's Degree

- Chemical Engineering - Master of Science (MS) (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/engineering-applied-science/programs-study/chemical-engineering/chemical-engineering-master-science-ms)

Doctoral Degree

- Chemical Engineering - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/engineering-applied-science/programs-study/chemical-engineering/chemical-engineering-doctor-philosophy-phd)

Faculty

While many faculty teach both undergraduate and graduate students, some instruct students at the undergraduate level only. For more information, contact the faculty member’s home department.

Anseth, Kristi (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_103471) Distinguished Professor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder
Bowman, Christopher (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_102043) Distinguished Professor, Professor; PhD, Purdue University
Bryant, Stephanie J (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_111810) Associate Professor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder
Cha, Jennifer N (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_151746) Associate Professor, PhD, University of California-Santa Barbara
Chatterjee, Anushree (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_151712) Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Minnesota Central office
Clough, David Edwards (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_102332) Professor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder
Davis, Robert H (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_105896) Professor; PhD, Stanford University
deGrazia, Janet (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_107661) Senior Instructor, PhD, University of Colorado Boulder
Falconer, John L (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_101426) Professor; PhD, Stanford University
Fox, Jerome Michael (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_156682) Assistant Professor, PhD, University of California-Berkeley
Gill, Ryan T. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_122697) Professor; PhD, University of Maryland College Park Campus
Gin, Douglas L. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_122861) Professor; PhD, California Institute of Technology
Goodwin, Andrew Pratt (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_151595) Assistant Professor; PhD, University of California-Berkeley
Heinz, Hendrik (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_156488) Associate Professor, PhD, ETH Zurich (Switzerland)
Holewinski, Adam P (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_155859) Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Michigan Ann Arbor
Hrenya, Christine M (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_113245) Professor; PhD, Carnegie Mellon University
Kaar, Joel L. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_148491) Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Pittsburgh
Mahoney, Melissa J (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_129517) Instructor, Lecturer; PhD, Cornell University
Medlin, James William (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_122699)
Professor; PhD, University of Delaware

Musgrave, Charles Bruce (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_144977)
Professor; PhD, California Institute of Technology

Nagpal, Prashant (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_151726)
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Minnesota Central office

Noble, Richard D (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_101068)
Professor; PhD, University of California-Davis

Nuttelman, Charles Raymond (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_142758)
Instructor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder

Randolph, Theodore W (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_101768)
Professor; PhD, University of California-Berkeley

Schwartz, Daniel K. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_118479)
Professor; PhD, Harvard University

Shirts, Michael R (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_156474)
Associate Professor; PhD, Stanford University

Weimer, Alan W (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_109152)
Professor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder

Young, Wendy Mores (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_146942)
Senior Instructor, Instructor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder

Courses

CHEN 5090 (1) Seminar in Chemical Engineering
Required of all chemical engineering graduate students. Includes reports on research activities and on special current topics.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail

CHEN 5128 (3) Applied Statistics In Research and Development
Students learn current and emerging statistical methods that are appropriate to experimentation in research and development activities. Statistical design of experiments and model fitting is emphasized. Department enforced prereq.: one introductory probability/statistics course.

CHEN 5210 (4) Transport Phenomena
Considers continuum mechanics, emphasizing fundamental relationships for fluid mechanics and heat and mass transfer and their applications to engineering problems. Department enforced prerequisites: undergraduate courses in fluid mechanics, heat transfer, and differential equations.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 87-180 credits (Seniors) or graduate students only.

CHEN 5333 (3) Research Methods and Ethics
Prepares graduate students to carry out independent research. Research ethics, laboratory skills, experimental methods, critical thinking, presentations, proposal preparation and career planning are discussed. Independent research project carried out under direction of chemical engineering faculty.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

CHEN 5343 (1) Research Methods and Ethics Seminar
Prepares graduate students to carry out independent research. Focuses on topics such as safety, ethics, communication skills, data analysis, intellectual property considerations, and time management.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

CHEN 5360 (3) Catalysis and Kinetics
Studies principles of chemical kinetics and catalytic reactions, emphasizing heterogeneous catalysis.
Requisites: Requires corequisite course of CHEN 4330. Restricted to Chemistry (CHEM) or Chemical Engineering (CHEN) graduate students only.

CHEN 5370 (3) Intermediate Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics
Reviews fundamentals of thermodynamics, application to pure fluids and mixtures, and physical equilibrium and changes of state. Examines the equation of state and computation of fluid properties for pure fluids, mixtures and solutions. Also looks at relations between thermodynamics and statistical mechanics. Department enforced prerequisite: an undergraduate course in chemical thermodynamics.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

CHEN 5390 (3) Chemical Reactor Engineering
Studies ideal and nonideal chemical reactors, including unsteady state behavior, mixing effects, reactor stability, residence time distribution and diffusion effects. Department enforced prerequisite: undergraduate course in chemical reactor design/kinetics.

CHEN 5420 (3) Physical Chemistry and Fluid Mechanics of Interfaces
Covers thermodynamics of interfaces and surface tension measurement; adsorption at liquid-gas, liquid-liquid, and solid-gas interfaces; monolayers; conservation equations for a fluid interface; rheology of interfaces; surface tension driven flows; contact angle and wettability; and double layer phenomena.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CHEN 3200 (minimum grade D).

CHEN 5440 (3-4) Design of Materials
The course content includes introduction and study of important concepts in solid state physics (particularly those relevant for design of materials); origin, characterization and design of mechanical, electronic, optical, magnetic, thermal and electrochemical properties of materials; design of bulk and nanostructured composites; introduction to polymers and soft materials; fundamentals of colloids and interfaces; and nanoscale chemistry and physics for design or desired material properties.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

CHEN 5450 (3) Polymer Chemistry
Introduces polymer science with a focus on polymer chemistry and polymerization reactions. Focuses on polymerization reaction engineering and how polymer properties depend on structure.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: CHEN 4450

CHEN 5460 (3) Polymer Engineering
Introductory polymer engineering course reviewing basic terminology and definitions; the properties and synthetic routes of important industrial polymers; and processing of polymers and their applications.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: CHEN 4460
CHEN 5630 (1) Intellectual Property Law and Engineering
Learn the fundamentals of the various types of intellectual property, obtain the ability to search the USPTO database for patents, learn the difference between provisional patents, utility patents and foreign patents and learn the timing requirements related to the filing of patents and public disclosure, use, and/or sale of an invention.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: CHEN 4630
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

CHEN 5650 (3) Particle Technology
Aims to identify the important physical mechanisms occurring in processes involving particles, formulate and solve mathematical descriptions of such processes, and analyze experimental and theoretical results in both a qualitative and quantitative manner. Teaches students to apply this knowledge to the design of particulate systems. Conveys the breadth and depth of natural and industrial applications involving particulates. Extra work required for graduate course.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: CHEN 4650

CHEN 5670 (3) Environmental Separations
Lect. Covers traditional, as well as new, chemical separations processes that have environmental applications. Includes chemically benign processing (pollution prevention) as well as approaches to address existing pollution problems.

CHEN 5730 (1) Mathematical Methods Short Course for Chemical Engineers
Determine and apply appropriate analytical methods, which may include linear and nonlinear algebraic equations, ordinary differential equations and partial differential equations, to solve an array of chemical engineering problems. Identify and interpret the differences between model predictions and experimental results.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

CHEN 5740 (3) Analytical Methods in Chemical Engineering
Presents applied analytical and numerical mathematical methods in the context of chemical engineering problems. Topics include modeling techniques, algebraic equations, and ordinary and partial differential equations. Department enforced requisite: working knowledge of computing, calculus, differential equations, linear algebra, and vector operations; and undergraduate courses in physics, fluid mechanics, heat transfer, and reaction engineering.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 87-180 credits (Seniors) or graduate students only.

CHEN 5750 (3) Numerical Methods in Chemical Engineering
Covers numerical methods for solving ordinary differential, partial differential, and integral equations. These principles are employed to develop, test, and assess computer programs for solving problems of interest to chemical engineers.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

CHEN 5800 (3) Bioprocess Engineering
Reviews the recent developments in the fields of microbiology, molecular genetics, and genetic engineering that are of commercial value and benefit to mankind. Covers engineering implementation of such biological processes.

CHEN 5803 (3) Metabolic Engineering
Introduces basic concepts in metabolic engineering and explores modern approaches in metabolic and strain engineering. Application areas that will be discussed will include the use of metabolic engineering approaches in biofuels and biorefining as well as biopharmaceutical production.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: CHEN 4803
Requisites: Requires prerequisite courses of APPM 2360 and CHEM 4731 or CHEM 4611 (all minimum grade C-).

CHEN 5805 (3) Biological Interactions to Biomaterials
Covers major classes of materials used in medical applications. Provide an in-depth view of advanced biomaterial concepts with a focus on biological interactions with materials that relate to protein and cell interactions, the innate and acquired immune response, blood interactions and infection.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

CHEN 5830 (1) Introduction to Modern Biotechnology
Introduces students to the biotechnology enterprise. Topics include the biotechnology industry and profession, the various academic disciplines of biotechnology, intellectual property, financing, and ethics.

CHEN 5831 (2) Biotechnology Case Studies
Capstone course required of all graduate students in the interdisciplinary graduate biotechnology certificate program. Reviews molecular genetics, product synthesis and purification, economics, intellectual property, and business planning. Working in teams, students present a biotechnology product plan.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CHEN 5830 (minimum grade D-).

CHEN 5835 (3) Colloids and Interfaces
Provides a deep exploration of the fundamental principles of colloid and interface science and of related applications. Core topics include fundamental equations of interfacial science, capillary phenomena, interfacial thermodynamics interfaces, molecular monolayers, electrical surface properties, and interfacial a forces. Advanced topics include wetting phenomena, adsorption isotherms, dynamic interfacial behavior, surface modification, tribochemistry, surfactant self-assembly, and foams/emulsions among others.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CHEN 3320 (minimum grade C-).

CHEN 5836 (3) Nanomaterials
Presents fundamental chemical and physical concepts that give rise to the unique optical, electronic and magnetic properties of nanoscale materials. Introduces important synthetic routes for producing nanomaterials, and interparticle forces governing colloidal behavior and self-assembly. Discusses current and potential applications in catalysis, biomedicine, renewable energy, and other fields.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: CHEN 4836
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

CHEN 5838 (1-3) Special Topics in Chemical Engineering
Graduate-selected topics courses offered upon demand.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

CHEN 5840 (1-4) Independent Study
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 24.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
CHEN 5900 (3) Pharmaceutical Biotechnology
Incorporates biochemistry, pharmaceutical science, and engineering for application in the pharmaceutical industry. Emphasizes microscale mechanisms affecting drug delivery, bioavailability, and stability. Specific topics include thermodynamics of macromolecular conformational stability, crystallization kinetics, interfacial phenomena, and industrial protein folding.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

CHEN 5919 (1-5) Special Topics in CHBE
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 10.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

CHEN 6210 (3) Microhydrodynamics of Suspensions and Colloids
Focuses on fluid mechanics and colloid science of suspensions of particles, cells, and drops. Covers fundamentals, applications, and research frontiers.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CHEN 5210 (minimum grade D-).

CHEN 6820 (3) Biochemical Engineering Fundamentals
Covers design and operation of fermentation processes, microbial and enzyme kinetics, multiple substrate and multiple species of fermentation, regulation of enzyme activity, energetics of cellular growth, immobilized enzyme and cell reactors, and transport phenomena in microbial systems and downstream processing.
Requisites: Restricted to Chemistry (CHEM), Chemical Engineering (CHEN) or Biological Sciences (MCDB) graduate students only.

CHEN 6940 (1) Master's Candidate
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail

CHEN 6950 (1-6) Master's Thesis

CHEN 8990 (1-10) Doctoral Thesis