

October 8, 2008

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your inquiry about our graduate program in chemistry. I am enclosing information about the graduate program in Chemistry. Additional information about the program is available at <http://www.d.umn.edu/chem> or <http://www.d.umn.edu/grad/index.html>. Starting fall semester 2009 all applications will be submitted on line at the Graduate School web site.

Whatever your long-range plans, we encourage you to consider the advantages of enrolling in the master's degree program at UMD. The program is well suited to students going on to Ph.D. programs, careers in industry, or professional schools. Students have the opportunity to gain valuable experience and make significant contributions to the chemical literature while conducting thesis research under the supervision of a nationally and internationally recognized faculty. There are typically 20 to 25 students in residence, and virtually all achieve their post-graduate goals. Approximately 50% of the students completing the program enroll in Ph.D. programs in chemistry. The enclosed material provides additional information about the advantages of the M.S. program at UMD.

An undergraduate degree in chemistry or closely related science is required for admission. Undergraduate courses should include a junior-senior level course in inorganic chemistry, one year of physical chemistry, calculus, and college physics. The minimum English-language scores for international students are: MELAB - 80, or IELTS - 6.5, or TOEFL - computer 213; paper 550; internet (IBT) 79 total with 21 on the writing section and 19 on the reading section. GRE scores are not required but strongly recommended for international students. There is no minimum GRE score requirement; however, the scores may be used by admissions committee for evaluation of the applicant's preparation.

Students accepted into the M.S. program are eligible for financial assistance, primarily in the form of teaching assistantships. Assistantships include approximately \$14,305 salary for the academic year plus tuition. Tuition is paid in full up to 14 credits per semester. Health insurance is available at reasonable rates to the graduate assistant and dependents. Additional support is generally available to students while working on their thesis research during the summer months. Award of a teaching assistantship is based on review of the materials submitted by the applicant for admission to the program plus additional materials requested in the Application for Financial Assistance. In addition, applicants for teaching assistantships should include evidence of good communication skills if possible, and in particular, international applicants are encouraged to provide additional evidence beyond the TOEFL exam of the ability to communicate effectively in spoken English.

Please contact me for current information about availability of financial support. Further information about the application process may be obtained on the internet at <http://www.d.umn.edu/grad>. If you have further questions about our program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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