Teaching and Departmental Responsibilities

The Lafayette College Department of Chemistry is searching for a tenure-track faculty member to join the department for the 2017/2018 academic year. We encourage applications from candidates in all areas of chemistry, and seek an individual who will complement the expertise of the department’s current faculty. The new faculty member will teach courses in introductory chemistry and in their area of chemical subspecialty, with preference to candidates qualified to contribute to teaching analytical, biological, or physical chemistry, or interdisciplinary areas such as polymer chemistry, materials science or biophysics. The new faculty member will develop a research program that complements other areas of research emphasis in the department, especially in the areas noted above. The position will be at the assistant professor rank. Candidates must have a Ph.D. degree in chemistry or a closely-related field, and postdoctoral and/or full-time teaching experience is strongly preferred.

In addition to introductory chemistry courses, applicants should identify in their application materials departmental courses which they are well-qualified to contribute to teaching. We anticipate that the successful applicant will teach in the general chemistry course sequence, and will develop a new first year seminar course or other contribution to the Lafayette Common Course of Study during their first few years at the College. Additional specific teaching assignments will depend upon the successful candidate’s specific expertise, interests, prior teaching experience, and departmental staffing considerations.

The normal faculty teaching load at Lafayette College is three courses one semester and two courses the other semester (3:2); laboratory contact hours are counted on a one-half basis when calculating teaching hours, so two three-hour laboratory sections are considered equivalent to a lecture course. Other responsibilities that will be required, although not normally in the first year, include student academic advising and service on College committees.

Scholarship

New faculty are expected to initiate a research program during their first year at the College, and startup support to assist in establishing a research laboratory will be available. The active involvement of our students in the faculty member’s research program is expected. Typically, 15-20 undergraduate students per year carry out research in the department for academic credit or salary during the academic year, and there is a College-supported summer, January interim, and academic year research program (EXCEL Scholars Program) that provides salary for qualified students involved in
research. The members of the chemistry faculty have been successful in the development of research programs that result in jointly-authored student-faculty papers published in refereed research journals and presented at national and regional conferences and, and their research has been supported by grants from various funding agencies. The Department of Chemistry Tenure and Promotion Guidelines summarize the departmental position on how various elements of the record of scholarship are valued by the Department of Chemistry.

Lafayette College Profile

Lafayette College was founded in 1826 in Easton, Pennsylvania, a city of about 30,000 residents located about 70 miles west of New York City and 60 miles north of Philadelphia. Lafayette is an independent, undergraduate, coeducational, residential highly selective liberal arts college that offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in 37 fields and Bachelor of Science degrees in 10 fields of science and 4 fields of engineering. Total enrollment is approximately 2,500 students, and there are plans to add 350-400 additional students over the next 6-8 years. Enrollees are from 46 U.S. states and territories and 48 countries, and there is a 10.4 to 1 student/faculty ratio. The faculty includes 220 full-time members with 99% holding the doctorate or other terminal degree, with approximately 35-40 additional faculty members planned to be recruited along with the planned growth in student enrollment. The Lafayette College endowment is valued at over $740 million.

The Department of Chemistry at Lafayette College

The Lafayette College Department of Chemistry offers Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts majors in both Chemistry and Biochemistry, and students completing the B.S. Chemistry program are certified by the American Chemical Society. There are no graduate programs at Lafayette College, and the education of undergraduate students is our primary concern.

The Departments of Chemistry and Physics occupy Hugel Science Center, which was completed in 2001. This building houses lecture halls and classrooms for chemistry and physics, seminar rooms, dedicated laboratories for teaching general, analytical, biochemistry, organic, physical and inorganic chemistry, numerous instrument rooms, offices and chemical storage areas, and multiple instrument rooms and research laboratories. Each faculty member supervises a research laboratory for collaborative faculty/student research. All departmental instrumentation and equipment is available for use by properly-trained students, and is shared among the faculty.

Support is available through the department secretary, a departmental instrumentation/electronics technician, as well as information technology, electronics and machine shop technicians. Our stockrooms are supervised by a technician who aids in
preparing reagents and equipment for course laboratories, maintains an inventory of chemicals and supplies, and coordinates chemical waste disposal. Our staff includes an Instrumentation/Laboratory Specialist with a Ph.D. degree in analytical chemistry, whose duties include teaching some laboratories, supporting faculty in the setup, operation and performance testing of instruments, training students in the proper use of instrumentation, assisting faculty with the testing and implementation of new laboratory experiments, and working with faculty in the application of research and teaching instrumentation.

Chemistry Faculty and Administrative Staff

The Department of Chemistry is staffed with ten full-time tenure-track faculty positions, and three administrative staff positions that include laboratory teaching among their responsibilities. All of these individuals hold the Ph.D. degree, and include faculty with a range of expertise that spans the chemical subdivisions. Five of the faculty positions are currently held by tenured faculty members, and there are four continuing tenure-track assistant professors. The full-time administrative positions in the department include an Instrumentation/Laboratory Specialist, a General Chemistry Laboratory Coordinator, and an Organic Chemistry Laboratory Coordinator.

Tenure and Promotion

Lafayette College has a merit-based tenure system with criteria based on teaching, scholarship, and College, departmental, and professional service. A one-semester junior faculty research leave is available following a successful mid-term review, normally in the third year of service. College-wide policies regarding tenure and promotion are described in detail in the Lafayette College Faculty Handbook, as well as the Department of Chemistry statement of departmental promotion criteria in the Department of Chemistry Tenure and Promotion Guidelines.

Benefit Programs

Lafayette College offers a competitive benefit program for employees, and those policies and programs are described in detail in the Faculty Handbook and in the Department of Human Resources Benefits web page. In addition, College-owned rental properties are leased to new employees on an as-available basis, and the Lafayette College Early Learning Center is located on campus.

Additional Information about the Department of Chemistry

More detailed information about departmental major programs, courses, faculty, staff, instrumentation and facilities is available on the departmental web page at http://chemistry.lafayette.edu/, and information about Lafayette College can be found at http://www.lafayette.edu.
Application Information

Additional information about the position, the Department of Chemistry, and an online application page is available at (http://chemistry.lafayette.edu/assistant-professor-2017/). Applicants should upload a curriculum vitae, statement of teaching expertise and philosophy, a brief (3-4 page) summary of a proposed research program, and arrange for three letters of recommendation to be submitted by the evaluators by October 1, 2016 to receive full consideration. Please address how your scholarship, teaching, mentoring, and/or community service might support Lafayette College's commitment to diversity and inclusion articulated in the College's diversity statement (http://www.lafayette.edu/about/diversity-statement/). Receipt of application materials will be acknowledged, and all applicants will be notified once the position has been filled. Prospective applicants with inquiries about the position can contact H. David Husic, Larkin Professor and Head of Chemistry and Chair of the Search Committee at husich@lafayette.edu or 610-330-5222.
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY - ASSISTANT PROFESSOR POSITION. A full-time, tenure track assistant professor position is available in July 2017 for an individual who will teach general chemistry and courses in their area of chemical subspecialty, and will complement the teaching and research expertise of the department’s faculty. Successful candidates will be expected to develop an active research program involving undergraduate students, and will contribute to teaching general chemistry and to the development and teaching of courses in the Lafayette Common Course of Study. A Ph.D. degree is required, and postdoctoral and teaching experience is preferred. Additional information about the position and the Department of Chemistry is at http://chemistry.lafayette.edu/assistant-professor-2017/. Please upload applications at apply.interfolio.com/36951. Applicants should include a curriculum vitae, statement of teaching expertise and philosophy (1-2 page), a brief (3-4 page) summary of a proposed research program, and arrange for three letters of recommendation to be submitted by the evaluators by October 1, 2016. Please address how your scholarship, teaching, mentoring, and/or community service might support Lafayette College's commitment to diversity and inclusion articulated in the College's diversity statement (http://www.lafayette.edu/about/diversity-statement/). Lafayette College is committed to creating a diverse community, one that is inclusive and responsive, and is supportive of each and all of its faculty, students, and staff. All members of the College community share a responsibility for creating, maintaining, and developing a learning environment in which difference is valued, equity is sought, and inclusiveness is practiced. Lafayette College is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from women and minorities.