

Lafayette College Assistant Professor of Chemistry Position Description
Available: July 2021

Teaching Responsibilities

The Lafayette College Department of Chemistry is searching for a tenure-track faculty member to join the department for the 2020-2021 academic year. We seek an organic chemist who will complement our current expertise with shared teaching duties in the organic chemistry sequence. The individual will also contribute to courses in introductory chemistry and the Lafayette Common Course of Study. Successful candidates are expected to develop an active experimental research program involving undergraduate students that complements other areas of research emphasis in the department. The position will be at the assistant professor rank. Candidates must have a Ph.D. degree in chemistry, and postdoctoral and full-course teaching experience are preferred.

Applicants should identify in their application materials [departmental courses](#) that they are well qualified to teach. We anticipate that the successful applicant will teach in the general chemistry course sequence, and may develop a new first year seminar course or other contribution to the Lafayette Common Course of Study. 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) but with a (2:2) load the first year. 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 provided. 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. 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 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 the 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. Easton is located in the Lehigh Valley, with a total population of around 840,000, 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 2,600 students. Enrollees are from 46 U.S. states and territories and 53 countries, and there is a 10.5 to 1 student/faculty ratio. The faculty includes 215 full-time members with 99% holding the doctorate or other terminal degree. The Lafayette College endowment is valued at over \$750 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.

The Department of Chemistry and Department of Physics both 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 provided by a department secretary, a departmental instrumentation/electronics technician, as well as information technology staff, 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.

Chemistry Faculty and Administrative Staff

The Department of Chemistry is currently staffed with eight full-time tenure-track faculty positions, and three administrative staff positions that include laboratory teaching among their responsibilities. All of the faculty and administrative staff hold the Ph.D. degree, and include faculty with a range of expertise that spans the chemical subdivisions. Five of the tenure-track faculty positions are currently held by tenured faculty members, and there are three continuing tenure-track assistant professors. The full-time administrative positions include an

Instrumentation/Laboratory Specialist, a General Chemistry Laboratory Coordinator, and an Organic Chemistry Laboratory Coordinator. The duties of the Instrumentation/Laboratory Specialist (Ph.D. degree in analytical chemistry) 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. The Laboratory Coordinators (Ph.D.'s in physical and organic chemistry) hold primary responsibility for the development and implementation of laboratories in the general and organic chemistry curricula.

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 which normally occurs 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 Scholarship 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, also on an as-available basis.

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](#), and information about Lafayette College can be found at <http://www.lafayette.edu>.

Application Information

Applicants should upload their materials at <http://apply.interfolio.com/82333>. Applicants should provide a curriculum vitae, a statement of teaching expertise and philosophy (1-2 pages), a summary of a proposed research program (3-4 pages), a statement of how they will contribute to diversity and inclusion in the department (1-2 pages), and a preliminary breakdown of startup cost estimates, and they should arrange for three letters of recommendation to be submitted by the evaluators by February 15, 2021 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 [Department's diversity statement](#). Prospective applicants with inquiries about the position can contact Chip Nataro, Marshall R. Metzgar Professor and Acting Head of Chemistry and Chair of the Search Committee at nataroc@lafayette.edu or 610-330-5216.