SNAPSHOT

DEPARTMENT OF

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Top things to know

Our undergraduate students get hands-on experience, working closely with graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty mentors on laboratory, computational, or theoretical research projects. In our rigorous capstone course, seniors perform experiments and run pilot-scale industrial equipment in labs at UW-Madison or at partner institutions overseas.

Graduate students can participate in numerous training programs in interdisciplinary research, teaching, mentorship, and entrepreneurship. 9 current PhD students received prestigious National Science Foundation graduate research fellowships.

Our faculty are leaders or members of 9 interdisciplinary research centers and institutes at UW-Madison. Faculty and students have founded 4 startup companies focused on recycling and sustainability.

Our faculty are consistently recognized with awards: 13 have received National Science Foundation early-career awards, 12 have received awards from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers or American Chemical Society, and 3 have received Presidential Early Career Awards.

Our graduate program ranks 12th overall among both private and public universities. Founded in 1905, the department is among the top chemical engineering departments in the nation.

National public ranking

U.S. News and World Report

#6
Undergraduate

#5
Graduate

Student enrollment

Fall 2026

498
Undergraduate

135
Graduate

Degrees conferred

2025-2026

102
Undergraduate

21
Graduate

Undergraduate outcomes

Approximate per year

$80K+
Median starting salary

95%
Placement

Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Explore more about the department

Degrees offered

Undergraduate

- BS, Chemical engineering

Graduate

- PhD, Chemical engineering

Accomplished faculty

71%

Faculty with Federal Young Investigator Award/ National Science Foundation CAREER Award

83%

Faculty with endowed professorships

Department chair



Brian Pfleger
Karen and William Monfre Professor, Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor and R. Byron Bird Department Chair
(608) 262-1092
brian.pfleger@wisc.edu

Research

$13M+

Research funding
Total value of research expenditures in FY 2025

Areas of research

- Bioengineering and biotechnology
- Catalysis, surface science and reaction engineering
- Materials, polymers and transport processes
- Theory, data science and systems

Research facilities

- Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation
- Center for Cell Manufacturing Technologies (CMaT)
- Center for Dairy Research
- Center for Mineral and Oxide Removal from Biomass
- Chemical Upcycling of Waste Products (CUWP)
- Materials Research Science and Engineering Center
- Forest Products Laboratory
- Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center
- Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine Center
- Wisconsin Institute for Discovery
- Wisconsin Energy Institute