

Dear Student,

January 2008

Congratulations! We are happy to hear that you have been accepted as a new student at San Francisco State University (SFSU), and are particularly pleased that you have declared a major in one of our undergraduate programs in chemistry/biochemistry.

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry offers an outstanding educational environment for students. Our faculty are dedicated to providing our students with excellent classroom and laboratory instruction, extensive hands-on experience using modern instrumentation, and one-on-one advising. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in research on significant chemical or biochemical problems under the direct supervision of faculty members that are recognized authorities in their fields. A degree in chemistry or biochemistry opens a multitude of employment opportunities in companies within and outside of the Bay Area, particularly in biotech and pharmaceutical companies. Many of our graduates go on to pursue advanced degrees in M.S. and Ph.D. programs and gain entry into medical, dental, pharmacy, and veterinary schools. Our Department also features an active student-run organization called the Chemistry & Biochemistry Student Association (CBSA), which offers a variety of activities to build community among students and faculty and enhance the educational experience of chemistry and biochemistry majors at SFSU. You can find more information about CBSA at <http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~cbsa>.

As a new student, you probably have many questions about our programs and should be aware that our Department is committed to providing our students with timely and regular advising. ***You are strongly encouraged to attend an orientation session that will be offered from 12-1 pm on Friday, Aug. 29 (the first Friday of the semester) in Thornton Hall room 327.*** You should note that all of our undergraduate majors are ***required*** to meet with an advisor during the ***fall*** to assess their progress towards their degree and answer questions about courses, electives, SFSU policies and procedures, research and scholarship opportunities, and career options. If you have more immediate questions about our programs, please stop by our Department office in Thornton Hall room 730, contact one of our office staff via phone (415-338-1288), e-mail (chemist@sfsu.edu), or refer to our Department website at <http://www.chemistry.sfsu.edu/>.

Welcome to SFSU and to our Department. We look forward to meeting with you and wish you the best in your academic endeavors.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pete Palmer, Associate Chair
Dr. Jane DeWitt, Chair