Baccalaureate
Some of my most cherished memories unfold within the walls of the undergraduate lounge. Fondly referred to as our "social hour," a group of us chemistry students gather there to enjoy our lunch every Tuesday and Thursday at noon. This delightful routine has become a cornerstone of my college experience, providing a consistent opportunity to reconnect with friends and peers, even as our schedules diverge. Whether we're swapping stories, sharing advice, or simply catching up, these moments foster a sense of camaraderie that keeps us closely knit and engaged in each other's lives.
Emily Adams

Baccalaureate
Eviana Berthel

“

My favorite memory is playing hangman and MASH in lab with the best lab partner is the world, Sarah Bulvan.

”
Elise Burkhartzmeyer

“My favorite memory of being a chemistry major is studying with my friends in my physical chemistry classes.”
Javi Valle Caffi

“ My favorite memory of being a chemistry major would have to be the final project presentation for Chemistry 346. The whole project was a sort of individual research laboratory that culminated in a poster presentation. I remember enjoying the topic for which my project would be centered around and observing my peers conducting their own experiments. It was the first poster presentation I have ever done in the lobby of the chemistry building. I enjoyed looking at everyone’s work and answering onlookers’ questions about my own poster. It was a unique experience that does scratch the surface of how presenting my work to others might be done in the future. ”

Baccalaureate
Colin Crawford

“...My favorite memories of being a chemistry major here were meeting so many other people with a passion for chemistry and having the opportunity to do research in the Schomaker group.”
Soorya Davanagere

“CHEM 104 with Dr. Léa Gustin online was one of the most fun classes I took during COVID. Additionally, both Organic Chemistry courses with Prof. Kelsey Miles were the best chemistry classes I’ve taken at UW-Madison.”

Baccalaureate
Elliot Delfosse

“...A favorite and frequent memory of being a chemistry major is sitting at college library writing a lab report at 3:00 a.m. and looking around and seeing so many other people also working hard so early in the morning. The feeling when you finally get to sleep after that is the best in the world..."
Harithe Mohd Hanafi

"I've enjoyed all the chemistry classes I've taken at UW-Madison, but my favorite was CHEM 512, taught by Dr. Wilkinson. I particularly loved the autonomy in the class, where we were encouraged to design our own synthetic plans. It truly made me feel like a chemist. For one of my projects, I designed a synthesis for a novel air-sensitive compound, which was a fantastic opportunity to apply my chemistry knowledge practically and create something new."
Mikaela Ann Hansen DeMartelaere

My favorite memory as a chemistry major is a combination of my own inorganic synthesis work and working with the students I assist in teaching. I love my advanced inorganic lab course. The course is very independent and Dr. Chad Wilkinson allows us the freedom to plan and carry out our own syntheses ideas. In all my other undergraduate work, I’ve never had any experience similar to it. I look forward to lab each week and cherish the growth I’ve made as a chemist due to this course. I also cherish and look forward to assisting in teaching the general chemistry labs each week. The students challenge me in ways I didn’t expect while making me laugh. This professional experience has solidified my desire to teach chemistry.
Many of my favorite memories revolve around spending time with the incredibly passionate and fun members of my labs and discussing all the ridiculous but fun ideas we have for research projects.
Conducting research as an undergraduate research assistant significantly enhanced my commitment to continue studying chemistry at graduate school. During my time at the Boydston Research Group, my main work focused on creating biodegradable plastics with the application of additive manufacturing. I found this experience valuable as it not only helped increase my research skills but also elevated my interest in chemistry.
Mahak Kathpalia

“...My favorite memory of being a chemistry major has honestly been being a part of a fun and collaborative research team at the Wang Lab where we all goof around while doing our research.”
Welcome new Alumni

Department of Chemistry
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Annika Kline

Baccalaureate
Hayley Kositzke

“

My friends that I made through my chemistry courses have made my time at UW something special.

Baccalaureate
Harry Lambert

“Late-night study sessions with my friends that were about 40% studying 60% yapping.”
Alexander Lemmenes

“Mark Edigers class on Thermodynamics.

Baccalaureate
Kate McKay

“...My favorite memory was the open house when the north tower opened my sophomore year. I got to meet so many people and was in total awe of the new labs!”

Baccalaureate
In the final semester of my senior year, I had worked three weeks to yield an inorganic crystal. When I had finally acquired crystals in the round bottom flask, I found I was unable to get the cap off. After spending over an hour trying to dissolve whatever was sealing the cap or pulling with all of my might, my professor, Dr. Wilkinson, came to my aid and smashed the flask with a hammer and said, "There. Now it's open."
Molly Patridge

“ My favorite memories from my time as a chemistry major involve booking study rooms with classmates to prepare for exams, although more often than not, we ended up doing anything but studying. 

Baccalaureate
Dan Poellinger

“"My favorite memory during my time in the department was building relationships with my peers, professors, and coworkers that blossomed into lasting friendships. The sense of camaraderie and respect in the department is unmatched and there is always a friendly face around the corner wanting to offer advice or help in any way possible.""
Kasyful Roslan

“In my final semester, I took two courses that provided me with two hands-on experiences that I found enjoyable: air-sensitive laboratory techniques using the Schlenk line and working with the electronic components of spectroscopy.”
Emily Schmitt

“...My favorite chemistry memories were from working in the general chemistry stockroom: learning about how the chemistry department functions behind the scenes, the history of lab spaces, and the folks who work hard to make everything happen. I've also really enjoyed working in my research laboratory. Putting on waders for the first time and learning how to sample in freezing temperatures was certainly memorable! My grad mentor Kaitlyn Gruber has been really awesome throughout my research experience..."
Sarah Anne Swineheart

“My favorite memory of being an undergraduate chemistry student was probably the experience of collaborating with my classmates from Physical Chemistry 561 on our weekly homework assignments every Thursday in the Information Commons. It was such a wild time attempting to do tons of algebra and calculus in order to get an answer that made sense. I also thoroughly enjoyed the socialization the evening provided us.”
One of my favorite memories is working with pretty much the entire class on a P-chem problem set on a Thursday night because of course it was the hardest P-set of the semester and the professor was out of town. It was honestly a great time as we were all just so confused, but we were confused together.
Rodrigo Villanueva

“...My favorite memories consist of small everyday interactions such as: talking about chemistry in the offices, thinking about ideas with lab mates, and asking people for advice. I am so grateful to the Yoon lab for providing such a special place to grow as a person and as a chemist. Ultimately, I fell in love with the chemistry, but the people were what made it feel like home.
My favorite memory would be the moments when my group members and I collectively decide we need a mental break from work, so we walk to the terrace to get ice cream or a pitcher of beer.
Emma Eisenbraun

“ Going to the terrace with my lab and friends!

Doctorate
Emma Eisenbraun

Doctorate
I have enjoyed getting to work with and become friends with such kind and smart people in the chemistry program. A couple of my favorite memories from grad school are spending a summer doing research in the Azores and a lab trip to the Upper Peninsula.
Eric Michael Kohn

“First outing at the Terrace with my cohort.

Celebrating the Martell Lab’s first paper submission.

Getting rescued after being trapped in the Shain Tower elevator for an hour and a half.”
Eric Michael Kohn

Doctorate
I have enjoyed the post-seminar conversations I've had with fellow graduate students. Seminars are a source of commonality to engage with people who think about very different things in their daily research from me, creating a sense of community. These conversations are often the highlight of my week and remind me why I love research. Also, assisting with some experiments at the Advanced Photo Source at Argonne National Lab was a really cool experience.
Katelyn Michael

Doctorate
A time to Remember
Julia Smith

UW has an incredible sense of community, and my favorite memories from graduate school involve time shared with mentors, co-workers, and friends. Despite challenges, the people I’ve met in Madison have made my experience here a great one. Give us a horrible snowstorm and -40 windchill, and we will go sledding and make hot cocoa. Give us a global pandemic, and we will continue to meet and support each other on Zoom and through distanced walks in the park. Give us a near-impossible experiment to do, and we will find something to enjoy about it. My time here wouldn’t have been half as good without the all the people I’ve met along the way.
Rui Wang

“Developing new methods from fundamental science to solve practical problems.”
Isabella Whitworth

“Tere is no better place to spend the summer than in Madison! I have so many fond memories of Saturday mornings perusing the farmer’s market, post-work trips to the terrace, bike rides around the lake, and lots of ice cream! Of course all of this is done with my amazing friends many of whom I met right here in the chemistry department.”
Sam Wood

“...My favorite part of my time here has been the denizens of the department."
Sam Wood

Doctorate
Zhijun Zhu

One of my favorite memories as a chemistry graduate student was the opportunity to design chemical probes and adopt novel chemical reactions. This work allowed me to differentiate isomers and characterize biomolecules with unprecedented precision in their chemical structures. It was thrilling to "see" and understand what was once considered "dark matter" in the routine analytical methods. This breakthrough has propelled me forward in my journey to discover biomarkers for diseases and advance the field of precision medicine. The excitement of uncovering the unknown and contributing to meaningful scientific progress is a memory I will always cherish.
Congrats!