

NEWSLETTER



DEPARTMENT NEWS

New Students and Faculty

The department is welcoming ~90 first-year chemistry graduate students this fall (15 *Inorganic*, 8 *Materials*, 14 *Physical*, 10 *Analytical*, 21 *Organic*, 21 *ChemBio*). The class is ~52% women and ~33% international. This is an above average class size. We are also welcoming Prof. Michael Strauss who officially begins as an assistant professor (Organic) this July. Orientation begins the week of **August 13th**, and classes start on **August 25th**.

Lab Rotations for all First-Years

Starting this fall, all first-year chemistry students may perform three 4-week rotations, in addition to TAing, if applicable. The deadline to opt-out is Aug 18. If the student opts-in, they must complete two rotations, with the third being optional. Group joining has been shifted for all first-years to **November 21st**.

CHEMISTRY CLIMATE SURVEY

During 2024-25 academic year, Prof. Sweedler and SWC worked together to gauge the department's climate through both a survey and in-person meetings with every research group in chemistry. The survey had a high response rate of 94% and the preliminary results have been disseminated to students. **The Department and SWC are working on plans to best address the concerns raised, so as to have a lasting impact on our department's culture.**

RESULTS HERE



Some overall trends

- New post-ORP meetings to discuss graduation were well received by students.
- 93% of students report that the new PTO policy is being followed by their group.
- 78% of students report their group is always safe for people of all backgrounds.
- Students report a lack of professional development and mentorship during PhD.
- Students report a lack of communication and transparency from PIs, especially regarding funding.
- Many trends correlate with research area, a PI's tenure status, and group size.
- Some research groups were outliers vs the department averages.

GROUP EXPECTATIONS

Expectations documents are now required for every group in chemistry, and are now accessible to anyone with a NetID.

First years should review these prior to group joining. Current students should confirm that no changes were made without their knowledge, and that everything is consistent with University/Dept policy

GROUP EXPECTATIONS



CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING

If you witness any behavior that is inconsistent with our Community Values and Expectations, please notify the department by following this QR code or link.

[GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/CHEMREPORT](https://go.illinois.edu/chemreport)



Your submission is completely anonymous and will only be reviewed by Raylene Gomez Hernandez, the assistant director for Student Wellness and Advocacy in the Chemical Sciences. After review, Raylene will decide on the appropriate action steps to identify and intervene in the aforementioned issue.