

**Department of Chemistry and Physics**

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October 21, 2016

Dear Chemistry Teachers and Guidance Counselors:

Why should a strong science student select chemistry at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for his or her undergraduate education? According to the most recent data from the American Chemical Society, among all schools in Tennessee (including Vanderbilt and UT Knoxville), UTC Chemistry is **#1 in the total number of American Chemical Society certified graduates**. In addition, UTC Chemistry majors applying to medical school over the past 10 years have been 70% more likely to be accepted than the national average. There are several factors that lead to this success:

**FUNDING** – The Grote Chemistry Endowment supports chemistry students and their educational activities, providing for scholarships, research instrumentation, and research.

**STUDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES** – Unlike at larger universities, UTC Chemistry focuses completely on undergraduates. Faculty direct around 25 students in individualized research coursework each semester, and each summer, 12-15 undergraduates receive a stipend to do research full-time. Many student researchers follow with a trip to an American Chemical Society meeting to present data, and their work often results in publications in peer-reviewed journals.

**CONCENTRATIONS IN CHEMISTRY, BIOCHEMISTRY, AND STEM EDUCATION** – In addition to the traditional chemistry concentration, the Chemistry Department offers biochemistry and STEM education (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) concentrations. Biochemistry is an especially attractive option for students planning careers in healthcare or medical research because it allows flexibility for exposure to biology coursework within the chemistry degree; the STEM education concentration allows for students to prepare for teaching high school chemistry while at the same time completing a degree in chemistry.

**What are additional benefits for strong science students?** The Chemistry Program awards Grote Scholarships to incoming freshman chemistry majors (including pre-medical, pre-dental, and STEM education) that are renewable for up to 4 years. To be eligible for this year's awards, students must have been accepted for freshman admission for Fall 2017 with a high school **GPA of 3.5 or better** and **at least 26 ACT** or **1170 SAT** composite scores.

- The Grote Scholarship is for **\$12,000 (\$3000/year, renewable for 4 years)**
- The Grote Scholarship may be added to the Provost's, Chancellor's, and/or the Hope Lottery Scholarships.

Please have interested students visit our website at <http://www.utc.edu/chemistry-physics/> and follow the scholarships link there (or direct link at <http://www.utc.edu/chemistry-physics/scholarships/chemistry-scholarships/scholarships-grote.php>) for an online application. Letters of recommendation must be emailed by **February 15, 2017**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [Rebecca-Stimson@utc.edu](mailto:Rebecca-Stimson@utc.edu).

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Rebecca E. Stimson, Ph.D.  
Grote Scholarship Committee Chair  
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga