



ACS Committee

Professional Training

January 26, 2026
Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
400 E 2nd ST
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-1399
United States

Dear Dr. Bell,

Thank you for your request for verification of your status as an American Chemical Society approved program. The chemistry program within the Department of Chemistry at Florida International University is currently in good standing and has been approved by the ACS.

Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania first received ACS Approval in 1974 and submitted their most recent periodic report in 2025. Approved programs are asked to submit reports every 6 years to reaffirm their approval status. Your program's next report will be due in June of 2031, at which point the program will be re-reviewed for continued certification.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Michelle M. Brooks, Ph.D.
Assistant Director, Office of Higher Education
Staff Liaison, Committee on Professional Training

The official outcome from CPT reads as follows:

Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania's Chemistry and Biochemistry Department's 2025 periodic report was reviewed by members of the American Chemical Society's Committee on Professional Training (CPT) during their January 2026 meeting. The department continues to provide students with a strong and well-supported academic experience, preparing them for successful careers in chemistry and related fields.

After assessing the periodic report, reviewers have recommended continued approval.

Program Strengths:

- The department has successfully integrated three ACS-approved programs into a single cohesive program that offers students a clear and structured four-year plan.*
- Reviewers commend the department's effective use of sabbaticals, which supports faculty development and academic vitality.*
- Students gain comprehensive laboratory experience across all five ACS instrumentation categories and regularly present research at regional or national meetings, demonstrating strong engagement in undergraduate research.*
- Faculty maintain active involvement in professional organizations and outreach, and the program benefits from institutional support for grant applications and transfer student advising.*

Areas for Improvement:

- Succession planning is encouraged. While the department currently meets the critical requirements of ACS Guidelines, the absence of assistant professors as well as several recent retirements from senior professors highlight the importance of planning for continuity and long-term stability.*
- Reviewers recommend revisiting the instrument technician position. Maintaining this role would help ensure consistent upkeep and training for instrumentation, reducing reliance on faculty and safeguarding student access to well-maintained equipment.*
- The department could improve its NMR instrumentation, currently a Pico Spin 45 NMR spectrometer, to a more advanced offering.*
- To strengthen safety practices, the program should consider implementing a process for students to read and sign common SOPs for research activities.*

The chemistry program at Commonwealth University currently meets the ACS Guidelines and has been granted Continued Approval. Your department's next periodic report will be due on June 30, 2031.