GRADUATE STUDY IN POLYMER SCIENCE
The Department of Polymer Science offers credit courses and doctorate degrees in polymer science.

Students interested in polymer science-related research may wish to participate in the newly created Polymer Science MS program. The exciting multi-disciplinary program brings together students and faculty from several departments to produce a learning experience designed to fill the need for scientists who can think and talk successfully across a broad spectrum of knowledge.

After Graduation
Polymer Science graduates go on to productive and successful careers in private industry, government, and academia. Here’s a sampling of their employers:

- Avon
- Advanced Business Systems
- Honeywell Polymer Systems
- ACO
- Reckitt Benckiser
- UBE
- Mitsubishi Rayon
- Dayton Development Lab
- Siebe
- Kao
- Science Applications International Corp.
- Akzo Nobel
- Urrea
- Dow Chemical
- Hoechst Celanese
- Dow Chemical
- Lonza
- AKZO NOBEL
- NOVA Chemie
- BASF
- Avery Dennison
- AT&T Bell Labs
- ATK Space Systems
- BFGoodrich
- Bayer
- Akzo Nobel
- Air Products
- OE Solutions

JOBS AVAILABLE TO GRADUATES
- Johnson & Johnson
- PPG Industries
- Ingredion
- Hyundai Petrochemical
- Honeywell
- Hercules Research
- Hankook Tire Co., LTD.
- The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
- Ford Motor Company
- Exxon Mobil
- DuPont
- Dow Chemical
- Chemtura
- Chemical Abstracts
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western Reserve University
- BP Research
- BFGoodrich
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Research Facilities
An impressive array of research facilities is available. Most of those used by polymer science faculty and staff are located in the 146,000-square-foot Goodyear Polymer Center. More than 50 laboratories are equipped with modern tools for the synthesis of polymers, the study of polymer structure and properties, and the fabrication of new composite materials.

State-of-the-art instrumentation is available for NMR, FTIR and UV-visible spectroscopy, GPC, MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry, thermal analysis, thermal gravimetric analysis, scanning electron microscopy, lasercapture microdissection, confocal microscopy and related bioceramic techniques. Molecular modeling research is pursued using a range of powerful software and advanced computing hardware.

Capabilities for biomaterials and biomedical polymer research are growing rapidly. Class III lab and tissue facilities as well as additional imaging and nanotechnology fabrication capabilities are available. New connections through the Austen BioInnovation Institute are providing greater access to animal facilities and clinical research infrastructure.

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Events and Venues
Akron, Ohio
With a metropolitan area of nearly 200,000, Akron is Ohio’s fifth-largest city. It offers a vibrant downtown, science parks, shopping, events and venues that appeal to almost every interest. Its regional location and easy access to air and highway travel puts you at the hub of a world of experiences and opportunities.

- Quaker Square in historic Northside
- E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall
- Firestone Fieldhouse
- First Energy Stadium
- Faultless Steel Bldg.
- Canton Professional Football Hall of Fame
- Goodyear Auto/Power Center
- Ruby Street Events Center
- Canton Memorial Civic Center
- NightCrawlers RubberDucks (Minor League Baseball)
- Akron Canton Wing Fund Ballpark
- Advance Bank
- Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (1927 World Series Champions) and more.

About The University of Akron
The University of Akron, Ohio’s Polytechnic University, is the region’s most influential public research university, contributing to the resurgence of the local economy providing an education highly valued in the marketplace, acclaimed for an innovative approach to higher education. With nearly 26,000 students and more than 300 associate, bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral and law degree programs, UA offers research and experiential learning that defines the polytechnic approach to education. UA brings together diverse disciplines in a qualitative education experience that involves hands-on, applied learning in the classroom, in the lab, in the field and online. The university is well-known for its leadership in national student competitions, educational research, study abroad, on-campus student employment and service projects, as well as close working relationships with disciplines, including athletics, engineering, business, science, health, and community.

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Welcome to the Department of Polymer Science

The University of Akron is the center of Akron, Ohio, the Polymer Capital of the World. Since 1956, students and faculty from around the globe have come to UA to focus on polymer innovations and applications of research in science, technology, and medicine. In fact, the University of Akron is the only graduate college in the US that offers both Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering programs. The 25th anniversary of the College was celebrated in 2013.

Department of Polymer Science Faculty

Students in the department represent the United States and numerous foreign countries, pursue Polymer Science degrees in an interdisciplinary curriculum. Students come into the program with backgrounds in chemistry, chemical engineering, physics, materials sciences and in polymer science, polymer engineering, biology and computer science, often with the support of scholarships and awards, graduate assistantships, and sometimes government fellowships from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

The Polymer Science Student Organization (PSSO) sponsors excursions, and extracurricular activities, including trips to industry plants, trade shows, and polymer company tours. PSSO also sponsors guest speakers on career development and resume/writing preparation, and the group also directs the Student Chemical Company Reaction section, which invites two members to campus each year. PSSO officers selected annually serve on a planning committee to prepare events that center around issues within the department, college and university.

FINANCIAL AID

Tuition and fees at the University of Akron (2017-18) are $10,700 and $24,400 annually for in-state and non-resident students respectively. Students are encouraged to explore all educational resources available to them. The Polymer Science and Engineering Chair’s Fellowship and Associateship Program is a competitive opportunity for polymer science and engineering students. The deadline for the application is February 1.

APPLICATION INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

Students with an undergraduate degree in chemistry, physics or engineering are encouraged to apply. Applicants must submit the following:

1. Completed online application
2. Application fee
3. Official undergraduate transcripts and, if applicable, continuing student records. If your most recent grade is included on an official transcript, it will be used for admission purposes.
4. Three (3) letters of professional recommendation
5. Statement of purpose
6. General test scores (subject exam recommended)

GOLDEN ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF POLYMER SCIENCE

For students meeting admission criteria, the Polymer Science and Engineering Chair’s Fellowship and Associateship Program is available for both undergraduate and graduate students. The deadline for the application is February 1.

Ph.D. program

1. Completed online application
2. Application fee
3. Official undergraduate transcripts and, if applicable, continuing student records. If your most recent grade is included on an official transcript, it will be used for admission purposes.
4. Three (3) letters of professional recommendation
5. Statement of purpose
6. General test scores (subject exam recommended)

For more information, please contact the Office of Admissions:

Office of Admissions
The University of Akron
400 S. Lane Avenue
Akron, OH 44325-3905
Phone: 330-972-7512
Email: admissions@uakron.edu
Website: uakron.edu/graduate

APPLIcATION DEADLINE:

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Students are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible. The Department of Polymer Science strives to make decisions as quickly as possible. The office of Admissions makes the final decision on admission. The final application deadline is Jan. 15, 2018.