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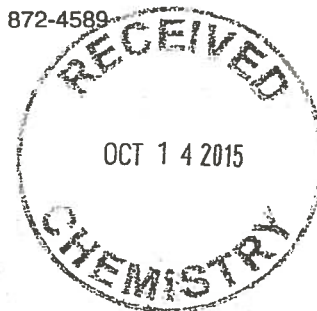
COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

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Cathy A. Nelson, *Secretary* (202) 872-4589

6 October 2015



Dr. Carol M. Taylor, *Chair*
Department of Chemistry
Louisiana State University
232 Choppin Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-1804

Dear Taylor:

The Committee on Professional Training reviewed your department's periodic report. Based on the information available, the Committee concluded that the chemistry program meets all of the requirements in the ACS Guidelines and agreed to **continue approval**.

The Committee commended the wide array of in-depth courses available to undergraduates, including Molecular Systems I and II (CHEM 4010 and CHEM 4011) and Industrial Organic Chemistry (CHEM 4160). The faculty appears to take assessment of the students seriously and use the results to improve the curriculum. The use of external evaluators to review the student research reports is also commendable. The student research reports ranged from very good to excellent.

The Committee made the following suggestions for the continued development of the chemistry program.

Facilities. According to Item 4.2 of the periodic report form, the department needs more laboratory space for the undergraduate chemistry program. The Committee strongly encourages you to work with the administration and develop a long-range plan to ensure that the instructional and research activities of the undergraduates are not limited by insufficient space.

Examinations. The examinations that were provided for the course work in biochemistry that is required for certification (BIOL 2083-The Elements of Biochemistry) rely almost exclusively on multiple-choice questions. The Committee encourages your faculty to review the tools used to assess student learning and incorporate questions that require critical thinking and applications of the knowledge gained in the course.

Student skills. According to the periodic report, students receive training on responsible conduct in a laboratory in Chemical Problems (CHEM 3900). The Committee encourages the faculty to introduce ethics earlier in the curriculum and to incorporate development of this important skill throughout the major. The enclosed supplement on teaching professional ethics offer suggestions on how a chemistry department can foster the development of student skills in this area.

Your program's next periodic report will be due in 2019. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the information in this letter or the expectations for ACS-approved programs.

Sincerely,

Cathy A. Nelson
Secretary
Committee on Professional Training

CAN/dth/hdk

c: President F. King Alexander

Enclosure: Teaching Professional Ethics Supplement