Tenure Track Position in Analytical Chemistry

Emporia State University’s Department of Physical Sciences seeks qualified candidates for a tenure-track assistant professor in analytical or environmental chemistry, beginning August 2017. A PhD in chemistry is required, and successful applicants will show potential for enthusiastic and outstanding teaching and scholarship. Teaching responsibilities will include introductory chemistry, quantitative analysis, instrumental methods, and advanced courses in the candidate’s area of expertise. Research with undergraduate and masters-level students is expected. To apply, send a letter of application, CV, unofficial transcripts, a statement of teaching experience and philosophy, a brief summary of proposed research, and three letters of recommendation to the chair of the search committee: Dr. Diane Nutbrown, Emporia State University, 1 Kellogg Circle, Campus Box 4030, Emporia, KS 66801-5087 or dnutbrow@emporia.edu. Screening will begin Oct. 7 and continue until the position is filled. An AA/EEO institution, ESU encourages minorities and women to apply.

Additional Information

Emporia State University, originally chartered in 1863 as Kansas State Normal School, has an enrollment of over 6000 students. For an overview of the university, go to the ESU website, and follow the "about ESU" link or the "parents and families" link.

Chemistry is one of three academic areas within the Department of Physical Sciences, which also includes physics and earth science. The ACS-accredited chemistry program consists of five faculty members. Several degree and majors programs are offered, including an ACS-certified BS degree in chemistry, as well as BA and MS degrees. Additionally, we collaborate with the department of biological sciences to offer an interdisciplinary major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB). The department also plays a substantial role in the BSE (Bachelor of Science in Education) degree for teaching candidates with science teaching fields. We typically graduate ten to twelve chemistry or BMB majors per year. These students are well-prepared for a variety of post-graduate options, including graduate school, professional school programs, government positions, or industry.

The newly formed Master of Science in Forensic Science program (MSFS) is the only one of its kind in the state of Kansas. On the advice of several local county sheriff departments, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, local metropolitan area crime labs, and national trends, the Master’s in Forensic Science is the preferred degree for employment in the forensics field.

Our facilities are excellent. As part of the creation of the MSFS program we have added to our chemical instrumentation, including a new GC-MS with headspace sampler as well as a UV-Vis with diffuse reflectance accessories. Existing instrumentation also includes a standalone GC-MS, GC-FID, UV-Vis, flame/furnace AA, FTIR, and a fluorescence spectrometer. We have also upgraded our FT-NMR. These instruments are used by students both in upper-level coursework and in undergraduate and graduate research projects. Cram Science Hall, part of the science hall complex that also houses biological sciences and math/computer science in an adjacent wing, has recently undergone substantial renovations and upgrades.

Emporia State University chemistry faculty may also participate with their research and collaborative research with students through the K-INBRE program. The Kansas Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence is a National Institutes of Health-funded programs which involves nine
Kansas institutions of higher education. The major goal is to improve the competitiveness of Kansas biomedical researchers for NIH funding. ESU faculty and students work within the K-INBRE objectives to enable research opportunities, and to inspire outstanding undergraduates to pursue biomedical research or related careers.

Our faculty members are, by necessity, able to teach courses in multiple specialty areas. All faculty members regularly teach one of the introductory-level courses. The chemistry faculty values and encourages faculty-student interaction; all lecture and laboratory sections are taught by faculty. Advanced undergraduate and graduate students also have opportunities for employment within the department to assist with teaching/supervision of laboratory courses. The student affiliate chapter of the ACS is quite active, and has received national recognition on several occasions. Student research is required for any chemistry major, and is also a required component of the MSFS program. Student members regularly attend regional and national ACS meetings to present research completed as part of their degree.

The successful candidate for this faculty opening will likewise be expected to contribute to our course offerings in diverse ways. All faculty teach introductory-level courses, which may include the Chemistry I / Chemistry II sequence for science majors (CH 123/124 and CH 126/127), the general education chemistry course (CH 110/111), and/or the one-semester “GOB” course for allied health professionals (CH 120/121), which is taken primarily by the pre-nursing students. Upper level courses will include Instrumental Analysis (CH777) and a new course Advanced Instrumental Analysis (CH778). CH778 is expected to cover the application of analytical chemistry to forensic science, including a lab where analysis of forensic samples will occur. Additionally, we continue to seek innovative ways to address the needs of non-traditional students, e.g., in-service teachers seeking additional certifications or gain additional experience. A willingness to develop and implement distance-learning classes for online delivery is therefore also a plus. Additional information about our courses and programs can be found in the "physical sciences" section of our online catalog.

Teaching is considered to be the primary duty of the chemistry faculty – indeed all faculty – at Emporia State; it comprises 50-70 percent of annual faculty evaluations. A typical teaching load is three to four courses per semester (e.g., an introductory-level lecture/lab and a discipline specific lecture/lab), for a total of 12-15 contact hours per week. Ability and enthusiasm for teaching are thus the major criteria on which applicants will be evaluated by the screening committee. It is therefore imperative that applicants address these points in depth in the application materials submitted. Applicants should encourage their references to address these points as well.

In addition to teaching, contributions in the areas of scholarship and service are also required for tenure and promotion. The word "scholarship" is very broadly defined, but typically means research, often in collaboration with students, and dissemination via presentations and publication. As noted above, all undergraduate and graduate degree programs have a research component. Thus, ample opportunity exists for interacting with students in achieving some level of scholarly productivity. Indeed, such faculty-student research collaboration is highly valued. Modest start-up funds are available to initiate research projects.
Service requirements are fulfilled by serving on various committees at the department, college, and university levels, being faculty advisor for student organizations, participating in faculty senate, etc. Service contributions typically represent 10-20 percent of the annual evaluation.

About the community

Emporia is a rural community of about 27,000. It lies at the foot of the Flint Hills in East Central Kansas, on interstate 35 (and Kansas Turnpike), about 50 miles south of Topeka, 80 miles north of Wichita, and 100 miles southwest of Kansas City. The economy of the region has agricultural as well as industrial components, with several manufacturing facilities in the area. The cost of living is quite reasonable. For more information, please see the city of Emporia website.