Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Chemistry/Science Education, Western Washington University

Position Announcement: [https://hr.wwu.edu/careers-faculty?job=500080](https://hr.wwu.edu/careers-faculty?job=500080)

Western Washington University (WWU) invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor position in chemistry education beginning September 16, 2023. The Chemistry Department and the College of Science and Engineering support Western’s mission to bring together individuals of diverse backgrounds and perspectives in an inclusive, student-centered university that develops the potential of learners and the well-being of communities. We encourage applications from women, people of color, people with disabilities, veterans, and other candidates from underrepresented backgrounds and with diverse experiences interested in this faculty position.

WWU is a primarily undergraduate institution (approximately 15,000 students) in Bellingham, WA, which sits at the midpoint between Vancouver, British Columbia (60 miles) and Seattle (80 miles) along the Salish Sea. WWU’s College of Science and Engineering is a leader in advancing STEM inclusion and excellence, having housed several faculty development projects, most recently a $3M NSF grant, BETTER in STEM. WWU is also the highest-ranking public, master’s-granting university in the Pacific Northwest, according to the 2022 U.S. News & World Report rankings.

The WWU Chemistry Department has 24 tenure-track faculty, serves about 300 undergraduate majors and over 20 graduate students annually, and offers M.S., B.S., and B.A. degrees in Chemistry and Biochemistry, along with a combined B.A. with Education (B.A.E.) degree. The B.S. Chemistry degree is approved by the American Chemical Society. More than half of our undergraduate majors are active in faculty-mentored research projects, and many present their work at national meetings and are co-authors on peer-reviewed publications. Members of the department are also active in the development of new educational materials and innovative teaching methods. The common vision shared within the department is to make the WWU Department of Chemistry the most outstanding undergraduate program of its kind in the nation.

WWU has a historic emphasis on teacher preparation and prepares a large fraction of the K-12 teachers in Washington State. The program in Science Math and Technology Education (SMATE) is housed in the College of Science and Engineering, includes 12 faculty members with joint appointments in Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geology, Computer Science, and the College of Education, and is led by a full-time director. SMATE prepares teachers in science content and methods and has an established history of leading and supporting systemic science education reform efforts in Washington State and nationally. SMATE faculty engage actively in interdisciplinary collaborations in research, teaching, and teacher professional development.

Position Responsibilities:
The successful candidate will enhance our existing strengths in undergraduate education and science teacher preparation, and will teach chemistry courses as well as K-12 science teacher preparation courses in SMATE. The teaching assignment will be distributed evenly between Chemistry and SMATE. This person must be committed to quality undergraduate education and to fulfilling teaching responsibilities in ways that support an equitable and inclusive learning environment for students. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and maintain an active research program involving undergraduate and M.S. students, especially one that emphasizes science education and supports active collaborations within and between the SMATE and Chemistry programs. This faculty member will also be expected to participate in service activities, including departmental committees and student advising.

Required Qualifications:
- An earned Ph.D. or ABD at time of application in chemistry, chemistry education, biochemistry or related field, OR earned doctorate or ABD at time of application in science education combined with graduate
level course work in chemistry or related field from an accredited institution is required. If ABD, all degree requirements must be completed by June 15th of the first year of employment (e.g., for a September 2023 start date, all degree requirements must be completed by June 15, 2024).

- Demonstrated commitment to and potential for cultivating learning environments that are equitable and inclusive of students with diverse identities and backgrounds.
- Record of or potential for high-quality undergraduate teaching, including the use of student-centered teaching approaches.
- Record of high quality scholarship in the learning and teaching of chemistry.
- Commitment to establishing a vigorous research program involving undergraduate and M.S. students.
- Demonstrated interest in and commitment to working with prospective and/or practicing K-12 teachers.

Preferred Qualifications:
- Post-doctoral research experience in chemistry, chemistry education or science education.
- Ability to initiate or participate in cross-disciplinary collaborations.
- Teaching experience at the undergraduate or K-12 level.

Salary:
$68,000 - $72,000 commensurate with experience and qualifications. Relocation assistance may be available per University guidelines. Salary and start-up funds are to be determined upon being offered the position.

Application Instructions:
Interested candidates must apply online via WWU’s Electronic Application System for Employment. Follow the link in the position announcement (https://hr.wwu.edu/careers-faculty?job=500080) to apply, and attach the following documents: (1) a cover letter addressing all of the required and preferred qualifications, (2) a diversity statement describing how you plan to support the success of students with backgrounds or identities that are underrepresented in STEM in the classroom and the research lab, and how your prior experiences have prepared you to do this (max. length of two pages), (3) a statement of teaching philosophy and interests (max. length of two pages), (4) a statement outlining proposed research plans, specifically addressing plans for undergraduate and graduate student involvement (max. length of four pages, not including references), (5) a curriculum vitae, (6) the names and contact information of at least three professional references (the letters themselves will only be required for semi-finalists, and will be automatically requested from the provided references), and (7) undergraduate and graduate transcripts.

Inquiries about the position may be addressed to Prof. Robert Berger at (360) 650-4327 or Robert.Berger@wwu.edu. Review of applications begins September 30, 2022; position open until filled.

Western Washington University (WWU) is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer committed to assembling a diverse, broadly trained faculty and staff. Women, minorities, people with disabilities and veterans are strongly encouraged to apply. In compliance with applicable laws and in the furtherance of its commitment to fostering an environment that welcomes and embraces diversity, WWU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and parenting status), disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender and identity expression, marital status or genetic information in its programs or activities, including employment, admissions, and educational programs. See WWU’s Policy on Ensuring Equal Opportunity and Prohibiting Discrimination and Retaliation. Inquiries may be directed to the Vice Provost for Equal Opportunity and Employment diversity, Title IX and ADA Coordinator, Equal Opportunity Office, Western Washington University, Old Main 345 (MS 9021), 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225; 360-650-3307 (voice) or 711 (Washington Relay); eoo@wwu.edu

WWU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. To request this document in an alternate format or to request an accommodation, please contact Human Resources Disability Services, 360-650-3774 or 711 (Washington Relay).