The Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering does not consider applications for a terminal MS degree; the department admits only to the PhD program. The MS degree can be awarded post-admission for work completed leading to the PhD degree. The MS degree is not a prerequisite for the PhD degree.

The Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering (CBE) (https://engineering.wisc.edu/departments/chemical-biological-engineering/) at UW-Madison was established in 1905. It has a tradition of excellence dating back to its founding and consistently ranks among the best programs in the world (https://engineering.wisc.edu/facts-and-stats/). The department has 21 core faculty and 8 affiliate faculty (https://directory.engr.wisc.edu/che/faculty/) who conduct experimental and theoretical research to address pressing societal, economic, and environmental challenges. Research in CBE (https://engineering.wisc.edu/departments/chemical-biological-engineering/research/) is highly collaborative and often involves diverse teams from within the department, across campus, at other campuses, and in industry. CBE researchers address the most pressing challenges facing society including developing approaches to sustainably produce new fuels and chemicals, combat the plastic pollution crisis, create new therapeutic molecules and materials, optimize energy infrastructure, computationally design new materials and chemical processes, understand transport in complex environments, engineer bacteria to produce biofuels, and more.


CBE is strategically located in Engineering Hall (https://map.wisc.edu/s/p82kgxyu/) at the heart of the science and engineering areas of campus, facilitating interactions with students and researchers in other leading departments.

Graduate students in the department are encouraged to participate in international research experiences, industry internships, and entrepreneurial activities. For research interests and activities of faculty members, please see the department’s research website (https://engineering.wisc.edu/departments/chemical-biological-engineering/research/) and faculty directory (http://directory.engr.wisc.edu/che/faculty/).