The program has been organized to offer advanced instruction and research training in environmental chemistry and environmental technology leading to the doctor of philosophy (PhD). A doctoral minor in environmental chemistry and technology is also offered. The program trains candidates for careers in teaching, research, resource management, environmental consulting, and private sector/industrial positions. Areas of work include the development of advanced technologies and materials for air and water purification and for the saving and storage of energies; alternative energy technologies; water and air pollution control; soil and sediment remediation; environmental technology; chemical limnology; and groundwater chemistry.

The PhD degree is designed for students who have a strong background in chemistry and who desire graduate training in applying chemistry to environmental systems. Individual programs are tailored to meet the candidate's interests through selection of a specialization and elective courses. Areas of specialization include aquatic chemistry, air pollution chemistry, terrestrial chemistry, and chemical- and bio-technology development.

The Environmental Chemistry and Technology (ECT) Program faculty is composed of an interdepartmental committee. Several committee members who have appointments in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering are located in the Water Science and Engineering Laboratory (WSEL). Other members are located in their respective departments.

The environmental chemistry and technology area occupies over 10,000 square feet of office and laboratory space in the Water Science and Engineering Laboratory. Facilities include offices, conference room, classrooms, computer facilities, and over 8,000 square feet devoted to research. The research areas, including trace element and mercury clean laboratories, are designed for research in aquatic chemistry, air pollution chemistry, and environmental technology. Shop facilities (electronics/mechanical) allow fabrication of specialized equipment tailored to the particular field and laboratory research needs. Other specialized facilities include areas for investigations of air pollution chemistry, ceramic membrane technologies, hazardous material remediation, and development of energy storage devices.

In addition to the Water Science and Engineering Laboratory, students have access to numerous facilities on the UW–Madison campus, including laboratories in the Departments of Soil Science; Chemical and Biological Engineering; Materials Science and Engineering; Chemistry, Geoscience; Civil and Environmental Engineering; the Center for Limnology; and the State Laboratory of Hygiene.