Justin Buchanan grew up in a home surrounded by teachers where both of his parents taught school. From that influence, he found out that he enjoys teaching also.

Buchanan says doors opened quickly once he graduated. He graduated from college in 2013 with two bachelors of science in education degrees – subject endorsements in chemistry 7-12 and biology 7-12. He also earned a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry and a minor in biology.

“I was offered a high school position teaching science, but declined to go to graduate school. I want to be a college professor.”

As an undergraduate at UNK, “the teachers were often good role models for the kind of professor that I want to be,” Buchanan said. “They were very open to communication outside of class to answer questions.”

Buchanan is in graduate school at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln studying biological science. Looking back on his college years, Buchanan says he gained practical teaching experience as a student at UNK.

CHEMISTRY 7-12 TEACHING SUBJECT ENDORSEMENT
Bachelor of Science in Education

The faculty in the University of Nebraska at Kearney Department of Chemistry believe in a “hands-on” science experience. In the program students are provided with the best laboratory experience possible through access to state-of-the-art equipment and participation in active undergraduate research programs.

After completing the requirements, a graduate will be qualified to teach chemistry in grades 7-12 at middle or high school systems or can pursue an advanced academic degree. Education degrees are a cornerstone of UNK, therefore, it has always had an excellent reputation for producing Nebraska’s top teachers.

Personal traits for success in this major

- Expresses enthusiasm in subject
- Asks questions
- Uses logical reasoning
- Pays attention to details
- Solves problems
- Communicates well

...and within a classroom setting

- Loves being around others
- Thinks creatively
- Implements learning strategies
- Applies classroom management skills
- Uses effective discipline skills
- Promotes positive behavior

Alumni profile

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Reasons to study chemistry at UNK

- The 11 chemistry faculty members have expertise in each of the major areas of chemistry (analytical, biochemistry, inorganic, organic and physical).
- Students can establish relationships with faculty members through classes, research and projects.
- Majors are encouraged to work with a faculty member in “hands-on training” doing chemistry research.
- Learning chemistry is fun and useful in modern facilities using advanced equipment and instrumentation.
Fall Semester
- CHEM 160/160L General Chemistry
- Portal 188 (your choice)
- TE 100
- PSCI 110
- SPCH 100

Spring Semester
- CHEM 161/161L General Chemistry
- MATH 115
- PHYS 201
- ENG 101 English Composition

Fall Semester
- CHEM 360/360L Organic Chemistry
- CHEM 269 Sophomore Seminar in Chem
- PHYS 275/275L General Physics I
- TE 204

Spring Semester
- CHEM 301/301L Analytical Chemistry
- BIOL 105 or 106
- ENG 102 Writing & Research
- TE 206
- General Studies Dist

Fall Semester
- CHEM 480/480L Physical Chemistry
- BIOL/PHYS 471
- TE 306
- PE 150
- General Studies Dist

Spring Semester
- CHEM 351/351L Biochemistry
- TE 319
- TE 320
- General Studies Dist
- Electives

Fall Semester
- CHEM 161/161L General Chemistry
- MATH 115
- PHYS 201
- ENG 101 English Composition

Spring Semester
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- BIOL/PHYS 471
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STUDENT PROFILE – Anthony La Rosa

“I chose UNK because historically it’s a great teaching college with a strong science department and access to quality labs and instrumentation in the research rooms. The faculty does a great job of working with students during and after office hours and guiding students through their academic career and on to the next level.”

Major: 7-12 education, chemistry and biology subject endorsements

UNK Chemistry Club

Students will be exposed to:
- Different fields in chemistry
- Cutting-edge jobs as they become available
- Visits from world-renowned chemistry educators that include demonstrations
- Plenty of pizza

Research apprentice program

Many faculty in the chemistry department have continuing research projects that involve students. A small stipend is paid to freshman and sophomore chemistry majors when they first join a project.

Scholarships available
- DeeAnna Delaet Endowed Scholarship
- Donald E. Fox Scholarship
- Donald L. Liehs Scholarship Endowment
- Dr. Mary L. Morse Memorial Scholarship

F.Y.I – For your information

High school students thinking about studying chemistry in college should take courses in all science disciplines, like chemistry, physics and biology, as well as math. This will provide a foundation for their college coursework. UNK chemistry graduates are employed as doctors, dentists, pharmacists, university professors, middle and high school science teachers, research and industrial chemists, environmental scientists, and salespeople, as well as in other science and technology fields.

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE UNK EXPERIENCE

For more information, contact:
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