

February 2026 Newsletter



Faculty Spotlight



myUMBC Bio
Lab Website

Dr. William LaCourse

Professor – Analytical Chemistry

Research Interests:

Developing Novel Electrochemical Techniques for (Bio)Analytical Problems of Critical Significance

Personal Factoid:

I Enjoy Hikes, Puzzles, and the Beach with my Family

Student Tip of the Month – “It is never too early to go to office hours and meet your instructor. Getting to know them early lets you better understand their expectations and show them you care about understanding the materials not just a grade.”

Did you know? – The average annual pay for all chemistry jobs across the entire country is \$104,000 /year (American Chemistry Council)

Department News

- UMBC Science Olympiad Invitational Hosted Over 1200 High School Students and Teachers from 5 States on Jan. 17th, Making it One of the Largest in the Nation
- Congratulations to Drs. Alexander Parades and Eric Bowman, the Department's Latest Ph.D. Graduates
- Ph.D. Candidate Lekan Ajiboye Brings Science to the Public with His ComSciConversation on Chemistry in Quantum Science
- Lekan Ajiboye (Daniel Lab) Selected IMOD Fellow of NSF Center for Integration of Modern Optoelectronics Materials on Demand
- Dr. Aaron T. Smith Named Editorial Board Member for the *Journal of Molecular Biology*

Upcoming Events

Feb. 3 – (10:00 am – 4:00 pm; MP 201) – Resume Rescue at the Career Center

Feb. 18 (12:00 pm – 2:00 pm; UC 312) – Good Afternoon Commuters – Meet Other Commuters

Feb. 13 – (12:00 pm – 1:00 pm; UC 310) – From Beer Pong to Medtech: The Evolution of an Entrepreneur – Seminar by Chris Ewing on Path to Becoming a Founder and CEO

Feb. 18 (11:30 am – 3:30 pm; RAC) – UMBC Spring Career & Internship Fair

Departmental Seminars

Seminars are held on Fridays at 12:00 in MEYR 120

Feb. 6: Dr. Adam Hawkrige (VCU) – Mass Spectrometry-based Strategies for Studying Complex Carbohydrates

Feb. 20: Dr. Xiangqun Zeng (U Missouri) – Advances in the Design of Real-Time Chemical/Biochemical Sensors: Needs for the 21st Century

Important Dates and Deadlines

Feb. 2 – Waitlists Deactivated and Purged

Feb. 6 – Last Day to Make Changes to Schedule

Feb. 15 – Last Day to Apply for Spring Graduation

Feb. 27 – Last Day to Add Independent Studies or Internship to Schedule

Follow the Department at

<https://chemistry.umbc.edu>

To get on the ACS Chem/Biochem Club mailing list, email ACS_Chapter@umbc.edu

New Jobs, Internships and REU Listings

For an extended listing of recent job postings and internships; [click here](#)

- [WES Pharma – Chemist – Validation of Analytical Methods](#)
- [Baltimore Police Dept. – Crime Lab Technician Supervisor](#)
- [JHU Applied Physics Laboratory – Chemistry Lab Tech](#)
- [Astra Zeneca, Quality Control Associate, Cell Therapy](#)
- [Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education Internships](#)
- [Undergraduate and Graduate Programs at the FDA](#)
- [Searchable database of 650+ Summer Research Programs](#)

Join the Chem/BioChem Jobs group – email bmoravec@umbc.edu to receive regular job/internship updates & postings

Resources

- Need Help with Chemistry Courses? – In addition to reaching out to your instructor, did you know about:
 - Chemistry Tutorial Center (Sign up to meet w/ a tutor; MEYR 145); covering courses Chem 101, 102, 300 & 351 this Fall
 - UMBC Tutoring Center (Walk-ins welcome; Library 1st Floor)
 - Peer assisted study sessions w/ SI Pass (Academic Success Center)
- Interested in Undergraduate Research?
 - Visit the department's website to see faculty's research programs
 - Email/Call faculty with appealing research – can be taken for credit or just experience
- Interested in Pre-Professional Programs (pre-med, pre-dental, etc.) – Don't miss out on advising
- Need help with your resume or interviewing advice? – Reach out to the UMBC Career Center