

## LETTER TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

November 24, 2010

Dear Future Scholar,

I am pleased that you have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in science. I am Dr. James G. Goll, a member of the chemistry faculty at Edgewood College, an independent college located in Madison, Wisconsin. A chemistry major at Edgewood has the option to take one of two concentrations, the professional concentration and the biochemical concentration. These provide flexibility to meet your interests and needs. The coursework for both concentrations of the chemistry major and for the chemistry minor are provided at the end of this letter.

The professional concentration is designed for students planning to pursue an advanced degree in chemistry, biochemistry, related sciences, and engineering, or employment in academic, government, and industrial laboratories. Recent graduates of this concentration are working at the State of Wisconsin Hygiene Laboratory, Covance, and in the Biomedical Engineering doctoral program at the University of Wisconsin and chemistry graduate programs at the University of Denver and the University of Wisconsin. The requirements for the professional concentration of the chemistry major include a core of 34 credits of chemistry, 6 credits of chemistry electives, and 20 credits of mathematics and physics. If you have taken the Advanced Placement Exam in Chemistry, a score of 4 will allow you to be placed directly into Chemistry 121, General Chemistry II and a score of 5 will allow you to be placed directly into more advanced courses such as Chemistry 321, Organic Chemistry I; Chemistry 351, Analytical Chemistry; and Chemistry 371, Inorganic Chemistry.

The biochemical concentration is very flexible so that it meets the needs of pre-health profession students and students planning advanced study in interdisciplinary fields such as environmental and forensic science, toxicology, biochemistry, and molecular biology. This concentration prepares students for careers in business and law, or in multidisciplinary scientific laboratories. This concentration requires a total of 40 credits and includes 26 credits forming the chemistry core, 4 credits of chemistry electives, and 10 credits of science electives.

Edgewood College also offers preparation for science teachers at all educational levels. This degree requires coursework in chemistry, other sciences, and education. A chemistry minor requiring 21 credits is also available and is a beneficial addition to other majors such as biology, business, mathematics, and criminal justice. This minor can enhance your ability to succeed in graduate or professional study as well as employment.

Edgewood graduates who majored in chemistry are in a better position to be admitted to graduate schools in several health science fields such as medicine and pharmacy. Edgewood students have been admitted to medical schools including the Medical College of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin, Des Moines University, Ohio University, Ross University, and Michigan State University. A student was admitted to the Medical College of Wisconsin after completing only 3 years of study at Edgewood College. About 5% of the students in a typical medical school class have less than 4 years of study. Edgewood students have also been admitted into the highly competitive Physician Assistant program at the University of Wisconsin (acceptance rate of about 10%). Other professional schools that Edgewood College graduates have attended include Drake University, the University of Minnesota, the Ohio State University, the University of Wisconsin Pharmacy Schools, the Marquette University Dental School, the University of

Wisconsin and University of Illinois Veterinary Schools, and Northwestern Health Sciences University and Palmer College of Chiropractic Medicine in Florida. Edgewood graduates have also attended graduate schools in Wisconsin, Colorado, Missouri, Oregon, and Minnesota. Students I have taught at other colleges before I joined the Edgewood College faculty now have careers at pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, testing laboratories, and a state crime laboratory. Others have gone on to medical, dental, pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, and graduate programs. Edgewood students have worked at the Forrest Products and Wisconsin State Hygiene laboratories in Madison and in the Trace Metal Analysis Department of the world famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Others have established careers in secondary education. Science teachers are currently in demand. A student with a chemistry education major will likely have many positions from which to choose.

Professional development is important for a student preparing for a career. To provide students an opportunity for professional development, I have taken students to National American Chemical Society meetings in Boston, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Anaheim, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, and Washington, D.C. Students have presented the results of their independent projects at these professional meetings. In the spring of 2009, I had students present their work at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Salt Lake City. I have also coauthored five papers with students; one student author was a freshman at Edgewood. The topics of these papers were the subject of an interview with *Chemical and Engineering News*, the weekly publication of the American Chemical Society. One paper was chosen for the cover of the March 2003 issue of the *Journal of Chemical Education*. In 2008, I published a paper with Edgewood College student authors in the *Chemical Educator* and I had another paper published in the *Journal of Chemical Education*. At Edgewood, you will not get lost in the shuffle and your efforts will be recognized.

I work closely with students to ensure that they are prepared to reach their educational goals. This is a great advantage of attending a personable, independent college such as Edgewood where faculty can watch the growth of students over their entire academic careers. Admissions counselors for medical schools have told me that they receive better letters of recommendation from personable colleges such as Edgewood. This is a big advantage over state government-supported institutions and independent colleges with 5,000 or more students.

The city of Madison has inherent advantages since it is the capital city of Wisconsin and the home of a nationally recognized research university. The cultural, social, and professional opportunities at Edgewood and in Madison are not found at many other independent colleges. A beautiful lakeside location in a residential neighborhood in a vibrant city is an unbeatable combination.

Many of our best students participate in extracurricular activities such as our excellent band and choir, theater, various clubs, and athletics. I am the Faculty Athletics Representative to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the faculty advisor to AIM, the student pre-health professional club.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail. My campus phone number is 608-663-6935 and my e-mail address is [jgoll@edgewood.edu](mailto:jgoll@edgewood.edu). I hope you join our community of scholars.

Sincerely,

James G. Goll, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Chemistry

**REQUIREMENTS FOR A CHEMISTRY MAJOR – PROFESSIONAL  
CONCENTRATION**

General Chemistry I and II 8 credits  
Organic Chemistry I and II 8 credits  
Inorganic Chemistry I and II 4 credits  
Analytical Chemistry 4 credits  
Physical Chemistry 3 credits  
Integrated Laboratory 2 credits  
Chemistry Seminar 1 credit  
Chemistry Research 4 credits  
Chemistry Electives 6 credits

**Mathematics and Physics Requirements**

Physics, Calculus-based 8 credits  
Calculus I, II, and III 12 credits

**REQUIREMENTS FOR A CHEMISTRY MAJOR – BIOCHEMICAL  
CONCENTRATION**

General Chemistry I and II 8 credits  
Organic Chemistry I and II 8 credits  
Inorganic Chemistry I – Bioinorganic 2 credits  
Analytical Chemistry 4 credits  
Biochemistry 3 credits  
Chemistry Seminar 1 credit  
Chemistry Electives 4 credits  
Science Electives 10 credits

**Mathematics Requirement**

College Algebra 3 credits

**REQUIREMENTS FOR A CHEMISTRY MINOR**

General Chemistry I and II 8 credits  
Organic Chemistry I and II 8 credits  
Inorganic Chemistry I – Bioinorganic 2 credits  
Chemistry Elective 3 credits