

## History Timeline of the Department of Chemistry

1909	Middle Tennessee State Normal School (MTSNS) was established by the General Education Bill of 1909 as a professional school for training public school teachers.
1911	Middle Tennessee State Normal School (MTSNS) opened, and 18 faculty received their first 125 students. Laboratories for the physical sciences were located on the first floor of the west wing of what was then known as the Administration Building (now Kirksey Old Main). The original curriculum was divided into a four-year “academic program” for elementary school teachers and a two-year post-secondary “normal program” for high school teachers.
1912	Academic catalog listed five physics courses, six chemistry courses, and a pedagogy of physics and chemistry course. All of these courses were taught by Archibald Belcher (A.B., Emory College, 1892; A.M., Harvard University, 1897). Mr. Belcher died in 1924 while still a faculty member.
1917 – 1944	Biologist George Davis (M.A., Peabody College, 1928) joined the faculty. In 1933 he was designated head of the Department of Biological Sciences, which absorbed the Department of Physical Sciences in the mid-1930’s. The combined department was chaired by George Davis until his retirement in 1944.
1922	The chemistry labs acquired a significant amount of “chemical supplies and apparatus”.
1925	MTSNS becomes Middle Tennessee State Teachers College (MTSTC) with a four-year program. Academic

	units called departments were formed for the first time; however, these did not have department chairs nor function as autonomous fiscal or curricular units.
1930	MTSTC becomes State Teachers College of Murfreesboro (STC).
1931	The newly constructed Science Building (currently Wiser-Patten Science Hall) was ready for occupancy. Built for a cost of \$ 225,000, the building was described as “magnificent ... and splendidly equipped”. Chemistry and physics were taught on the first floor, home economics on the second floor, and biology on the third floor.
1938	Among the original nine departments were Biological Sciences (Agriculture and Biology) and Physical Sciences (Chemistry, Geology, and Physics). These were combined in the mid-1930’s to form a single Department of Biological and Physical Sciences, whose name was shortened to the Department of Science in 1938.
1939	B.S. in Chemistry first offered.
1943	In recognition of its expanding scope, including its appeal to undergraduate students preparing for health professional, scientific, and other technical occupations, the State Legislature authorized renaming the institution as Middle Tennessee State College (MTSC).
1944 – 1946	Department of Science chaired by biologist Harwell Presley Sturdivant (Ph.D., Columbia University, 1934). Following his tenure at MTSC, Dr. Sturdivant headed the Biology Department at Union College, Barbourville, KY, and was chairman of the Biology Department at Western Maryland College (1948 – 1973). Dr. Sturdivant died January 1991.

1946 – 1981	Department of Science chaired by chemist J. Eldred Wiser (Ph.D., Peabody College, 1940). Following World War II, good use of surplus war materials allowed as little as possible to be spent on consumable supplies and as much as possible spent on equipment, even to the point of designing a freshman laboratory manual around Army surplus chemicals.
1951	A Master of Arts degree was inaugurated, for which students could elect 15-quarter hours of 500-level chemistry courses as a possible minor field in an M.A. in Education degree. These were the first graduate-level chemistry offerings.
1958	Problems in Physical Science appeared in the 1958-1959 catalog as the first course in undergraduate research for credit.
1959	MTSC goes from the quarter system to the semester system.
1959 – 1972	Continuously renewed funding of twelve consecutive grants from the National Science Foundation (~\$1.5 million total) allowed a Science and Math Institute to be held during the summers for high school science teachers. The course work was of such quality that participants could earn a Master of Science in Teaching (M.S.T.) degree in three summers. Most of the 1,023 students from 27 states completed their degrees.
1960	Department of Chemistry and Physics (chaired by J. Eldred Wiser) established as an independent department separate from the Department of Biology (chaired by John A.

	Patten).
1962	Construction of the Home Economics Building (now Ellington Human Sciences) allowed physics to move to the second floor of the renamed Science Hall.
1965	The Tennessee State Legislature authorizes renaming the institution Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). Academic departments are organized into schools. The School of Arts and Sciences includes the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, History, Languages, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Speech and Theatre.
1965-1966	An organized curriculum for pre-professional health students is published for the first time in the university catalog.
1966 – 1967	A research-based Master of Science (M.S.) degree, requiring a written thesis, is first described in the university catalog, and is awarded for the first time in May 1967. A Master of Science Teaching (M.S.T.) degree is also offered.
1967	Davis Science Building is constructed at a cost of \$1.7 million. For the first time, dedicated research laboratories were available. The increased space was occupied in 1968 and was rapidly and heavily utilized as the department continued to grow. The Department of Biology occupied the first floor together with classrooms shared with the Department of Chemistry and Physics, which occupied the second floor.
1971	Accreditation of the Chemistry B.S. degree by the American Chemical Society.

1972	The School of Basic and Applied Sciences is split off from the School of Arts and Sciences, and includes the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Industrial Arts and Technology, Journalism, Mathematics, Military Science, and Nursing. The Department of Chemistry and Physics administers pre-professional programs in medicine, medical technology, dentistry, dental hygiene, pharmacy, physical therapy, nursing, and radiologic technology. Pre-occupational therapy is added as a pre-professional program in 1978.
1973	A large room dedicated solely to chemical instrumentation in the Davis Science Building was established.
1981	The Department of Chemistry and Physics hosts the 13th Southeastern Regional Conference of Undergraduate Student Chemists with plenary lectures by Leon Mandell and Charles G. Overberger.
1981 – 1992	The Department of Chemistry and Physics chaired by Dan D. Scott (Ph.D., Peabody College, 1955).
1983	Science Hall renamed Wiser-Patten Science Hall for Drs. J. Eldred Wiser and John A. Patten.
1984	The Department of Chemistry and Physics hosts the 16th Southeastern Regional Conference of Undergraduate Student Chemists with plenary lectures by Jeannette G. Grasselli and Glenn T. Seaborg.

1986	<p>First Doctor of Arts (D.A.) in Chemistry awarded. This degree, adapted from a program originally developed in the 1960's at Carnegie Mellon University, is a terminal degree for Chemical Education at the college level. It was approved by the University and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) in 1978, and first appeared in the THEC Academic Inventory in 1980.</p> <p>Diamond Anniversary (75th year) Celebration includes the purchase of a research-quality telescope by the Department of Chemistry and Physics and the construction of a rotating-dome observatory.</p>
1989	<p>A second room for additional chemical instrumentation and a computer laboratory was established in the Davis Science Building.</p>
1992 – 1998	<p>The Department of Chemistry and Physics chaired by James H. Hutchinson (Ph.D., Auburn University, 1969).</p>
1994	<p>The Department of Chemistry and Physics hosts the 26th Southeastern Regional Meeting of Undergraduate Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. The first Demomania was performed at this meeting.</p>
1995	<p>The Department of Chemistry and Physics is separated, forming the Department of Chemistry (chaired by James H. Hutchinson) and the Department of Physics and Astronomy (chaired by Robert F. Carlton).</p> <p>Ronald J. Gillespie delivered the first Golden Goggles Invitational Lecture receiving the first annual award presented by the Chemistry Club (MTSU SAACS).</p>

1997	<p>The Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics Conference (EYH) was established as an annual event for middle school girls.</p> <p><i>Scientia</i> began operation as an online journal of student research. It was renamed <i>Scientia et Humanitas</i> in 2011.</p>
1998	<p>The MTSU Honors Program (founded 1973) became the Honors College, the first in the state. The first Honors class in General Chemistry was offered in 1996 followed by an Honors section of Organic Chemistry in 2008.</p>
1998 – present	<p>The Department of Chemistry chaired by Earl F. Pearson (Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 1969).</p>
1999	<p>The molecular modeling program Spartan was acquired for the departmental computer laboratory.</p>
2001	<p><i>Chemical Abstracts</i> is replaced by the online database <i>SciFinder Scholar</i>.</p> <p>The department acquired the Regional Directorship of the MTSU Regional Science Olympiad Tournament after many years of participation.</p> <p>MTSU hosts a joint meeting of the Tennessee and Kentucky Academies of Science.</p>
2002	<p>The Lewis E. Tigg Chemistry Stockroom was named to honor the important contributions made by Mr. Tigg as stockroom manager to the growth and development of science departments at MTSU during his forty-six years of service from 1956 to 2002.</p>

2003	Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) was founded as a student organization for undergraduate and graduate women majoring in scientific, engineering, mathematical, or other technical fields. The Women In STEM Center was established in 2009 to coordinate this and similar activities.
2004	<p>The MTSU National Science Teachers Association Student Chapter was approved by the NSTA.</p> <p>Dedication of the Clara W. Todd Pre-Professional Health Science Advising Center in the Davis Science Building.</p>
2005	First campus-wide Scholars Week held to give students an opportunity to showcase their research for the faculty, the public, and especially their peers.
2006	Two separate National Science Foundation (NSF) grants allowed the acquisition of 300 MHz and 500 MHz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectrometers. The total award of \$ 699,000 was the largest departmental equipment grant at the time.
2008	<p>B.S. in Biochemistry approved.</p> <p>The Nashville Section of the American Chemical Society hosts the 60th Southeastern Regional Meeting (SERMACS 2008).</p>
2009	B.S. in Forensic Science approved. This degree is collaboratively administered by the Departments of Biology, and Criminal Justice.
2010	Following a decade-long process, three Ph.D. programs



	<p>replaced the Chemistry D.A. degree. These doctoral degrees are in Mathematics and Science Education, Molecular Biosciences, and Computational Science. Chemistry plays a role in all three of these interdisciplinary programs.</p> <p>The department acquired the program Gaussian 09 and will install the supercomputer to run it during the 2011- 2012 academic year. The supercomputer will be installed on the 4th floor of the James E. Walker Library.</p>
2011	<p>The dormitories Clement Hall, Felder Hall, Gore Hall, and Wood Hall are demolished to make room for the “Future Home of the MTSU Science Building”.</p>