

# Coatings & Polymeric Materials

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## Department Information

- **Department Chair:**  
Dean C. Webster, Ph.D.
- **Department Location:**  
Research I, Research Park
- **Department Phone:**  
(701) 231-7633
- **Department Web Site:**  
[www.ndsu.edu/cpm/](http://www.ndsu.edu/cpm/) (<http://www.ndsu.edu/cpm/>)
- **Application Deadline:**  
April 15 is the priority deadline for fall consideration. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.
- **Credential Offered:**  
Ph.D., M.S.
- **English Proficiency Requirements:**  
TOEFL ibt 79; IELTS 6.5; Duolingo 105

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The Department of Coatings and Polymeric Materials offers graduate studies leading to the Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees in coatings and polymeric materials. Departmental research bridges between basic and applied research in the field of polymers and coatings. There is a unique atmosphere and opportunities for cross-disciplinary research experience, often accomplished by multi-disciplinary research activities with, for example, chemistry or engineering departments. Advanced research work involves specialized training in the following areas: colloidal and interfacial chemistry of polymers and coatings, polymer synthesis, adhesion, durability, spectroscopy, corrosion, electrochemistry, nanomaterials design and synthesis, computational modeling, life cycle assessment, and rheology. The department has an industrial advisory board consisting of leading industrial scientists and/or former graduates who provide new directions and other feedback to the program.

## Research Facilities and Equipment

The Department of Coatings and Polymeric Materials is housed in a modern building in the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Research and Technology Park on the northwest corner of the campus. This building consists of nearly 40,000 square feet of space for research and teaching. Modern equipment and instrumentation have profoundly influenced the development of instruction and are the cornerstones of research in the chemical and materials sciences. The Department of Coatings and Polymeric Materials possesses extensive instrumentation to characterize polymers and colloids ranging from state-of-the-art spectrometers, thermal analysis systems, advanced electrochemical equipment to study corrosion, and atomic force microscopes, as well as equipment for paint making and testing. Other modern research facilities, including state-of-the-art electron microscopy, thermal analysis, high-performance computing and NMR laboratories, are readily available to all researchers on the NDSU campus and in the NDSU Research and Technology Park.

The Department of Coatings and Polymeric Materials graduate program is open to all qualified graduates of universities and colleges of recognized standing. To be admitted with full standing status to the program, the applicant must meet the Graduate School admission requirements and have adequate preparation in a science or engineering field.

## Financial Assistance

The student must first be accepted in full or conditional status to be eligible for an assistantship in the Department of Coatings and Polymeric Materials. To be considered for an assistantship, the Graduate School application packet must be complete no later than April 15. International students must also submit a TOEFL or IELTS score. General and subject GRE scores are highly encouraged if they are available to the student. Graduate students may be supported during both the academic year and summer months by either teaching or research assistantships.

The current monthly stipend is \$1,750+ per month, for an annual stipend of \$21,000+. In addition to the stipend, graduate assistants receive a graduate tuition waiver. Tuition waivers cover base tuition for NDSU graduate credits only. Students are responsible for differential tuition, student fees, and tuition for non-graduate level credits taken or Cooperative Education credits.

The Master of Science program requires the completion of 16 credits of letter-graded course work with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better. The Ph.D. program requires the completion of 27 credits of letter-graded course work with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better. Each student must choose a thesis (research) adviser within three to six months of beginning graduate school. After two semesters, the student must also select a supervisory committee. This committee advises the student and administers oral examinations. Candidates for the M.S. program normally satisfy course requirements within one year of study. Ph.D. candidates typically take about two years to complete courses, leaving later years for full-time dissertation research.

Candidacy qualifying examinations are administered twice annually. All Ph.D. candidates are required to pass the qualifying exam and defend an original written research proposal at least eight months prior to the final dissertation examination. The proposal topic must be approved by the student's research adviser, and the supervisory committee administers the oral exam. Lastly, following completion of dissertation research and the presentation of an acceptable written dissertation, the candidate defends it before the supervisory committee.

## Accelerated M.S. Program

An accelerated M.S. degree program is available for students enrolled in a major at NDSU and the Coatings and Polymeric Materials minor program. This program will allow qualified students to complete a B.S. plus M.S. degree in as little as five years. Students should declare their intent to enroll in the accelerated M.S. program during their sophomore year. Contact the department for more information on the requirements for the program.

### Eugene B. Caldonga, Ph.D.

University of the Philippines Diliman, 2015

Mississippi State University, 2020

Research Interests: Corrosion-Preventing Materials, Electrochemistry and Surface Chemistry, Additively Manufactured Polymeric Materials, Polymer Nanocomposites, Fluoropolymers, Elastomer-Enhanced Thermosets, Thin Films, Biobased Materials, and Stimuli-Responsive and Super Liquid-Repellent Coatings

### Erik Hobbie, Ph.D.

University of Minnesota, 1990

Research Interests: Nanotechnology, Nanoparticles Polymers, Optics and Rheology

### Mohiuddin Quadir, Ph.D.

Freie University Berlin, 2010

Research Interest: Organic Polymer Chemistry, Functional self-assembly of polymers, Biomaterials, Application-guided modification of polymers for pharmaceutical and medical use, Bio-based materials

### Xiaoning Qi, Ph.D.

North Dakota State University, 2009

Research Interests: Corrosion Characterization and Prevention, Coating Design and Formulation, Sustainable Coating Solutions, Bridge Coatings, High Temperature Coatings, Durable Functional Surfaces, and Repairable/Healable Coatings.

### Bakhtiyor Rasulev, Ph.D.

Uzbek Academy of Science, 2002

Research Interests: Cheminformatics, Computational Chemistry of Polymers and Coating Materials, Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship, Predictive Models Development, Molecular Modeling, Nanoparticles, Physico-Chemical Properties and Toxicity Assessment

### Andriy Voronov, Ph.D.

Lviv Polytechnic National University, 1994

Research Interests: Polymer Synthesis, Micellar Self-Assembly, Sustainable Biobased Polymeric Materials, Responsive Polymers for Biomedical Applications, Polymers for Biomimetic Conversion of Biomass, Polymer Latexes, Polymer Hydrogels, Polymer Thin Films.

### Dean Webster, Ph.D.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1984

Research Interests: Polymer Synthesis, Thermosets, Polymerization Reactions, Bio-based materials, Marine Coatings, Combinatorial and High Throughput Methods.

## Adjunct Faculty

### Dante Battocchi, Ph.D.

University of Trento, 2001

North Dakota State University, 2012

Research Interests: Electrochemical Noise Measurements, Scanning Vibrating Electrode Technique (Svet), Organic Metal-Rich Primers Characterization and Development, Materials Protection and Metal Corrosion

### Bret Chisholm, (Bridgestone-Firestone)

University of Southern Mississippi, 1993

Research Interests: Electrochemical Noise Measurements, Scanning Vibrating Electrode Technique (Svet), Organic Metal-Rich Primers Characterization and Development, Materials Protection and Metal Corrosion

### Victoria Gelling, Ph.D. (Sherwin-Williams)

North Dakota State University, 2002

Research Interests: Electrochemistry, Corrosion, Environmentally Compliant Corrosion Inhibitors

### Ghasideh Pourhashem, Ph.D.

Drexel University, 2014

Research Interests: Environmental impact assessment to inform decision making, Life cycle assessment (LCA) and techno-economic analysis (TEA) of bio-based products, Industrial Ecology, bio-based product policy

**Brian S. Skerry, Ph.D.**

University of Manchester, 1980

Research Interests: Corrosion and Coatings

## **Emeritus Faculty**

**Stuart G. Croll, Ph.D.**

University of Leeds, 1974

Research Interests: Weathering Durability of Coatings, Service Lifetime Prediction, Colloidal Stability, Molecular Modeling, Pigment-Polymer Interactions, Film Formation Processes, Coating Physics, Art Conservation

**Dennis E. Tallman (formerly of NDSU Dept. of Chemistry)**

The Ohio State University, 1968

Research Interests: Analytical And Physical Electrochemistry, Corrosion Mechanisms, Corrosion Control By Coatings, Electroactive Conducting Polymers, Scanning Probe Techniques Microelectrodes And Microelectrode Arrays