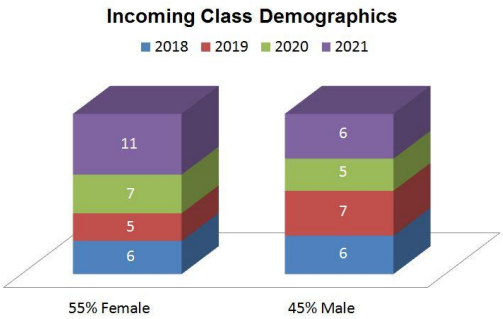
POLYMER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

Dear Prospective Student to PSE,

Thanks for your interest in UMass Polymer Science and Engineering. PSE is a dynamic and inclusive department with an international reputation for defining the frontiers of polymer and soft materials science and engineering research. Our primary mission is to educate the future leaders in our field, through impactful research programs and teaching endeavors. The Department hosts an average of 100 doctoral degree candidates, 25 postdoctoral fellows and visiting scientists culminating in about 200 researchers committed to top-level research and education. More than forty companies and federal agencies support our research and educational programs. **All PSE PhD candidates are fully-supported research fellows**, requiring no mandated teaching duties.

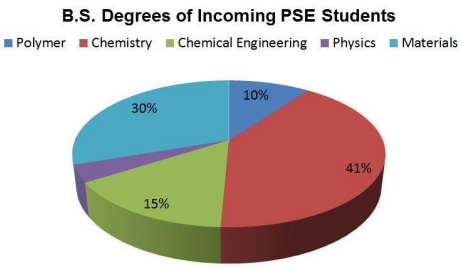
Here are a few ways to learn more about our Program:

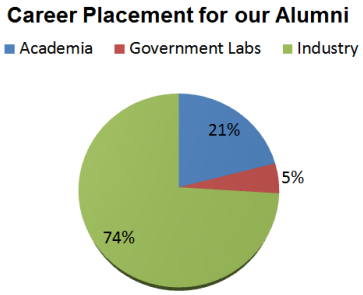
1. Visit this page to view a recording of a recent Virtual Open House event overviewing the program *and* for links directing you to more info about the PSE program
2. Visit each of our research teams virtually & check out videos intros to research groups .
3. Fast facts about PSE :



Average time to completion is 4.9 years

All PSE PhD candidates are fully-supported research fellows





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PSE remains one of the largest academic centers for polymer and soft materials research in the world. PSE has a long tradition of training well-rounded graduates for leadership positions in industry, academic, and government. This large community of outstanding citizens continues to represent a distinct strength of our program. The success of our (>750 PhD) alumni is strongly linked to the broad and deep educational experience provided by our department. *We do not train students in traditional silos of polymer chemists, polymer physics, or polymer engineers but rather we train the next generation of exceptional leaders for the soft materials community*. There are few departments in the US or World that provide deeper and broader educational experiences than PSE. The great varieties of soft and polymeric materials, the breadth and depth of phenomena they exhibit, and the interdisciplinary nature of polymer science, provide an ideal platform to teach core scientific principles found in traditional disciplines like chemistry, physics, materials science, and chemical engineering.

Entering PSE class Fall 2021

PSE also houses the Center for UMass / Industry Research on Polymers (CUMIRP) providing students not only exposure to the inner-workings of industry research/collaboration but also frequent visits of industry representatives (mostly PSE Alums) who regularly return to recruit for high-impact companies, including 3M, Apple, Arkema, Dow Chemical, Facebook, Intel, Kraton, Johnson&Johnson, PPG, Saint Gobain, and Solvay, to name only a few. This is reflected in the high rate of employment upon degree conferral, with competitive starting salaries in the $110,000 range for PSE grads.

For additional info on PSE and the Ph.D. program, please visit our website, or please feel free to contact the Graduate Program Director, Department Head, or Front Office Staff. Relevant information is provided on our contact page. To apply, please visit the UMass Graduate School website.

Respectfully,

Greg Grason
Graduate Program Director

David Hoagland
Department Head