MISSION
The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics is committed to the success of our students, the pursuit of knowledge through fundamental and applied research, and continued engagement in community and professional service. The College is dedicated to cultivating an environment of intellectual growth and serving as a leader in innovative research.

DEAN
Dan E. Wells, Ph.D.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS
Biology & Biochemistry
Chemistry
Computer Science
Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
Mathematics
Physics

OUR STUDENTS
Undergraduate Majors: 4,789
Graduate Students: 924
Post-Baccalaureate Students: 176

DEGREES AWARDED
Bachelor’s: 992
Master’s: 189
Doctoral: 104

RECENT STUDENT AWARDS
Department of Defense SMART Scholarship:
Ozzy Tirmizi (2022)

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grants:
Alyson Vu (2023); Hai Pham, Phillip Pham, Urvi Sakhuja (2022); Ashley Cruz, Ana Gutiérrez, Olivia Lee, Shailee Modi (2021)

Fulbright Study/Research Grants:
Anushka Oak, Amanda Pascali (2022); Carl Suerte (2021); Fernando Flor (2020)

Goldwater Scholarships:
Gabrielle Kostecki (2023); Gabrielle Olinger (2021); Debora Mroczek, Brian Vu (2019)

NASA STEM Fellowship:
Claudia Bernier (2020)

NSF Graduate Research Fellowships:
Damon Spencer (2023); Jakob Joachin (2022); True Furrh, Alejandro Ramirez, Laura Taylor (2021); Debora Mroczek, Brian Vu (2020); Jose Daniel Velazco-Garcia, Stephanie Suarez, Erin Miller (2019)

RECENT FACULTY AWARDS
American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow:
Eric Bittner (2023)
American Chemical Society Fellow:
Eva Harth (2021)
American Physical Society Fellow:
Claudia Ratti (2021)
American Statistical Association Fellow:
Mikyoung Jun (2021)

Association for Computing Machinery, Distinguished Members:
Zhigang Deng (2021); Albert Cheng (2020)

DOE Early Career Award:
Youtong Zheng (2023)

Edward A. Bouchet Award, American Physical Society:
Carlos Ordonez (2022)

Geological Society of America Fellow:
Julia Wellner (2021)

J. Clarence Karcher Award, Society of Exploration Geophysicists:
Jiajia Sun (2021)

Materials Research Society Fellow:
Zhifeng Ren (2023)

National Academy of Engineering:
Leon Thomsen (2022)

National Academy of Inventors:
Fellows: Alex Ignatiev (2021); Seamus Curran (2019)
Senior Members: James Briggs, Shishir Shah (2023); James Flynn (2022)

NSF CAREER Awards:
Emily Beverly, Tai-Yen Chen, Mehmet Şen, Melissa Zastrow (2023); Andreas Mang, Panruo Wu (2022); Pavan Hosur (2021)

Piper Professor:
Nouhad Rizk (2022)

Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellows:
Jakoah Brgoch, Judy Wu (2020)

SPIE Fellow:
Mini Das (2022)

UH Teaching Excellence Awards:
87 faculty recipients (2010–2023)
INNOVATIVE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Research Opportunities for Students
NSM offers a wide range of research opportunities for undergraduates at all levels. NSM students conduct research all over campus, as well as at the Texas Medical Center, the UH Coastal Center, and in industry labs. From programming computers, to pure and applied mathematics, to extended field work, wet lab experiments, and even marine research in the Galápagos Islands, NSM students gain valuable experiences that prepare them for medical school, graduate school, and their careers. Many NSM students spend multiple years working with a faculty mentor. NSM and the University offer competitive scholarships to support student researchers.

Increasing Student Success in Entry-Level Math & Sciences Classes
With the goal of increasing student success in STEM courses, NSM faculty implemented a comprehensive redesign of introductory chemistry, biology, physics, and mathematics courses. The efforts are changing the way the material is presented and increasing the amount of hands-on learning in the classroom. Students also have access to peer-led learning sessions designed to reinforce difficult topics and improve study skills. The initiative was funded with an initial $1.5 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Scholar Enrichment Program (SEP)
This program focuses on improving the academic experience and performance of NSM students. Through peer-to-peer workshops that improve learning and problem-solving skills, SEP helps more than 1,800 students each year succeed in basic science and math courses. SEP also has tutoring programs and funding to assist students with paying for school. SEP also offers the TC Energy Summer Scholars Academy annually. The program prepares high school students for their first semester of college and beyond. In 2022, the program received national and state recognition. INSIGHT into Diversity Magazine’s Inspiring Programs in STEM Award recognized SEP’s work to improve diversity, equity and inclusion in STEM careers. SEP received the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Star Award for its contributions to providing postsecondary credentials of value, specifically through its efforts to provide exemplary support service to students.

teachHOUSTON
A partnership between NSM and the College of Education, teachHOUSTON is changing the way future secondary math and science teachers are trained. Students participate in classroom teaching throughout their four years at UH with rotations at local elementary, middle, and high schools. They learn valuable teaching skills from mentor teachers at public schools and master teachers at UH. Ninety percent of the graduates continue as public school teachers beyond two years.

RECENT SIGNIFICANT GRANTS
“Common Stem Cell of Origin for Junctional and Gastric Adenocarcinoma”
Investigator: Frank McKeon, Ph.D.
Funding: $4.7 Million from the National Cancer Institute

“DarkSide-20K-Urania Project”
Investigator: Andrew Renshaw, Ph.D.
Funding: $2.9 Million from the National Science Foundation

“Proinflammatory Lung Epithelial Variants in Cystic Fibrosis”
Investigator: Frank McKeon, Ph.D.
Funding: $2.7 Million from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

“Actively Engaging NK Cells during Virotherapy to Induce Neoantigen-Specific Antitumor Immunity”
Investigator: Shaun Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.
Funding: $1.9 Million from the National Cancer Institute

“Targeting Constitutively Active Sumo Modified Androgen Receptors in Endocrine Therapy Resistant Breast Cancer”
Investigator: Tasneem Bawa-Khalfe, Ph.D.
Funding: $1.8 Million from the National Cancer Institute

“Mentoring, Development, and Engagement of Diverse STEM Students at a Large, Public, Urban University”
Investigator: Daniel Hauptvogel, Ph.D.
Funding: $1.5 Million from the National Science Foundation