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

CORE VALUES
• Dedication to student success through academic excellence
• Outstanding teaching informed by research
• Innovative science and education with global impact
• Dynamic environment that fosters academic freedom and growth
• Diverse community of faculty, staff and students

OUR FACULTY
Tenured or Tenure Track: 210

OUR STUDENTS
Undergraduate Majors: 4,544
Graduate Students: 994
Post-Baccalaureate Students: 252

DEGREES AWARDED
Bachelor’s: 797  Master’s: 128  Doctoral: 117

DEMOGRAPHICS
Female: 44%  Male: 56%
African-American: 6%  Asian-American: 33%
Hispanic: 21%  International: 13%
White: 22%  Other: 5%

RECENT STUDENT AWARDS
AAPG Imperial Barrel Award World Champion Team:
Eric Lunn, Walter Reed, Delaney Robinson, Leiser Silva & Andrew Steier (2017)
DOE Office of Science Graduate Student Research Program:
Kyle Williams (2017)
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant:
Khalid Sheikh (2018)
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship:
Breyinn Loftin (2018); Anthony Keyes & Khanh Nguyen (2017)

RESEARCH EXPENDITURES
$30 Million (Grants & Contracts)

RECENT FACULTY AWARDS
American Chemical Society Fellow:
Scott Gilbertson (2017)
American Physical Society Fellow:
Eric Bittner (2016)
Geological Society of America Fellows:
Thomas Lapen (2018); John F. Casey (2015)
Mineralogical Society of America Fellow:
Virginia "Jinny" Sisson (2018)
NSF CAREER Awards:
Loi Do & Judy Wu (2018); Mini Das, Qi Fu, Claudia Ratti & Ding-Shyue "Jerry" Yang (2017)
The Ralph and Helen Oesper Award:
Maurice Brookhart (2016)
Société Chimique de France French-American Prize:
Karl Kadish (2017)
Society for Exploration Geophysicists J. Clarence Karcher Award:
Yingcai Zheng (2015)
Society for Exploration Geophysicists Maurice Ewing Gold Medal:
Arthur Weglein (2016)
UH Teaching Excellence Awards:
53 faculty recipients (2010–2018)
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 and Sciences Classes
A $1.5 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute supports NSM faculty members’ efforts to redesign introductory chemistry, biology, physics, and mathematics courses. Through the program, professors 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.

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 nearly 1,500 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 a Summer Bridge program annually. Summer Bridge prepares high school students for their first semester of college and beyond.

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
“Stem Cells of Precursor Lesions: Preempting Highly Lethal Upper GI Tract Cancers”
Investigator: Frank McKeon, Ph.D.
Funding: $6 Million from Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

“NeuroNex Theory Team: Inferring Interactions between Neurons, Stimuli, and Behavior”
Investigator: Kresimir Josic, Ph.D.
Funding: $4.39 Million from National Science Foundation

“Enhancing STEM Teacher Leadership through Equity and Advocacy Development in Houston”
Investigator: Paige Evans, Ed.D.
Funding: $2.8 Million from National Science Foundation

“Multi-Tiered Video Analytics for Abnormality Detection and Alerting to Improve Response Time for First Responder Communications and Operations”
Investigator: Shishir Shah, Ph.D.
Funding: $1.8 Million from National Institute of Standards and Technology

“Novel Strategies to Potentiate a Ras-targeted Oncolytic Herpes Simplex Virus”
Investigator: Shaun Xiaoliu Zhang, Ph.D.
Funding: $1.7 Million from National Cancer Institute