Renovating the Chemistry Instructional Labs
Aligning our facilities with the strength of our people
Harvey Mudd College seeks to renovate three chemistry instructional laboratories in the Jacobs-Keck Science Complex to improve faculty-student educational opportunities and provide adequate and safe space for students to participate in required lab courses.

Our outstanding chemistry program is dependent on safe and modern labs

Harvey Mudd College is consistently viewed as being among the top baccalaureate chemistry programs in the country. With coursework in all major areas of chemistry coupled with courses in mathematics, physics, biology, engineering and computer science, our program of study prepares students for professions in both traditional chemistry areas as well as in cutting-edge interdisciplinary fields.

Because chemistry is an experimental science, our laboratory curriculum gives students extensive hands-on experience with modern, sophisticated instrumentation and computation, featuring inquiry-driven, open-ended experiments that emphasize the process of discovery. In addition, more than 80 percent of our students conduct research with faculty prior to their senior year, with an average of 30 students per year participating in our 10-week summer research program.

Every Mudd student is affected by the quality of our labs

HMC’s entire entering class (this fall, 225 students) takes the first-year chemistry course and laboratory as part of the College’s Core Curriculum, which helps students integrate and reinforce key chemical concepts in a hands-on, inquiry-based environment. Such a curricular requirement benefits all students, not just those majoring in the traditional sciences. Therefore, the importance of maintaining safe and modern facilities and the most up-to-date instrumentation extends beyond just chemistry and affects every discipline and every student on campus.
Mudd’s chemistry program has outpaced the usefulness of our labs

Unfortunately, with all the advances in Chemistry, along with those of our talented faculty, vigorous students, and challenging curriculum, our labs have simply fallen behind—in functionality, capacity and safety. In addition, recent and projected growth in the size of the student body adds to the urgency of renovation in that the existing laboratories can no longer provide adequate and safe space for students to participate in these required chemistry lab courses.

It’s time to make a change, and quickly

Recognizing the imperative of dramatically updating the safety, capacity and functionality of our labs, the College completed the planning and design for the renovation of the three main chemistry instructional labs—the General Chemistry Laboratory, the Physical Chemistry Laboratory, and the Advanced Chemistry Laboratory ("SuperLab")—which have not been renovated in decades.

Given that Jacobs-Keck is the hub of year-round activities, including our summer research programs, the renovations need to happen swiftly. We are poised to complete renovations to all three labs during the upcoming summer, with the labs being finished in time for the beginning of fall 2017 classes.

Get ready for some big changes in the fall

Beginning this fall, our students and faculty will experience the benefit of these safer, more-functional modern laboratories, which also showcase the many equipment and instrumentation upgrades that have been made in the past few years. As part of the renovation, more functional workspaces will be created and older fume hoods will be replaced with modern, see-through hoods, improving sightlines within the labs. Space within the labs will be opened up to improve access to instrumentation and to allow for small-group lecture and lab write-up areas to be integrated within the laboratories.

We still need your help to bring this home

We began this project with the need to raise $1.6 million toward the total $4.6 million cost of the planned renovations. To date, we have received more than $1.1 million from several generous alumni, trustees, faculty, staff and friends.

As we seek additional partners to secure the remaining funding, there are multiple opportunities for you to support this renovation, including naming opportunities within the labs (please see details on following pages) or the ability to “claim an element”, whereby donors can make a $1,000 gift to “claim” one of the 118 elements and have their name included with that element on a periodic table that will be displayed on the exterior, north wall of Jacobs Science Center (visit: hmc.edu/campaign/jacobs-keck).

Learn More

If you are interested in learning more about supporting the Jacobs-Keck Renovation, please contact Department of Chemistry Chair Kerry Karukstis at kkarukstis@g.hmc.edu or 909.607.3225 or Assistant Vice President for Development Matt Leroux at mleroux@hmc.edu or 909.607.0902.
Phase 1: Jacobs-Keck Renovation

Planned to begin in summer 2017 and subject to securing additional philanthropic support, this phase will involve renovation of the three chemistry instructional laboratories—the General Chemistry Laboratory, the Physical Chemistry Laboratory and the Advanced Chemistry Laboratory (SuperLab).

General Chemistry Laboratory
Naming Level: $500K

The General Chemistry Laboratory will be overhauled to make room for the growing inventory of instruments that have been acquired over the years.
The Physical Chemistry Laboratory facelift will accommodate new instrumentation and enable the College to offer additional lab sections. Replacement of existing hoods, HVAC systems and utilities with more efficient models also is included.
Advanced Chemistry Laboratory (SuperLab)
Naming Level: $500K

Upgrades to SuperLab are essential. The lab, which opened in 1984–1985, is the oldest space in the academic complex. Extensive modernization and safety upgrades are planned.

HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE is the premier liberal arts college specializing in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The College’s mission is to prepare engineers, scientists and mathematicians to become leaders in their fields and understand the impact of their work on society. Students learn to problem-solve in a hands-on, collaborative environment; do research alongside outstanding faculty; and develop leadership skills to benefit an increasingly technological world. Located in Claremont, California, Harvey Mudd College is one of The Claremont Colleges.