



Furman University

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Anderson

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Anderson, associate professor of chemistry, is Furman University's 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award recipient. She earned a Ph.D. in chemistry at Pennsylvania State University and a B.S. in chemistry at

Samford University.

Following postdoctoral research at Boston University, Pennsylvania State University, and UCLA, Dr. Anderson began her teaching career at independent liberal arts institutions in 2010 at Hope College in Michigan. She joined the Furman faculty in Fall 2018.

Dr. Anderson teaches general, analytical, and inorganic chemistry courses and trains undergraduate students in an active research group that investigates the bottom-up assembly of thin films and nanomaterials. In her courses and research lab, she encourages students to ask clarifying and probing questions while providing them with structured guidance to approach strategically problems through logical analysis. Dr. Anderson received the Henry Dreyfus Teacher Scholar Award in 2019 in recognition of her devotion to both teaching and research.

For her courses, Dr. Anderson has instituted peer-partnered learning programs, developed teaching lab experiences and infrastructure, and created engaged learning activities relevant for lecture and lab. During her time at Furman, she has developed and led departmental programming for chemistry majors to help prepare them for their post-college careers.

In the research lab, Dr. Anderson's students are actively involved in NSF-funded research at all stages of the process from data collection and analysis to dissemination of results. As a professor, she has mentored 36 research students, published 11 papers with 25 student coauthors, and had 59 external student research presentations. This Spring, she and her undergraduate researcher received the American Chemical Society's Division of Inorganic Chemistry Award for Undergraduate Research.