

Last Updated **December 02, 2024**

**Dennis Cao**

**Title of Research Program/Project:** Organic Materials Synthesis

**Description:** Prof. Cao's research involves the organic synthesis and characterization of new aromatic molecules that are interesting because of their ability to accept electrons and absorb or emit light. Students participating in this research typically quickly gain independence with advanced organic laboratory techniques and instrumentation, and often continue their work into the academic year. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity to develop soft scientific skills around writing, presentation, and literature reading.

**Prerequisites:** Received a passing grade in Chem 112/115 or equivalent college-level general chemistry course. Taking Chem 211/212 is not a prerequisite.

**Hiring Plans this Summer:** I typically run a research group of 4–5 students total. I have a few returning students and will be looking to hire 2–3 new students, contingent on my receiving of grant funding.

**Other Information:** Students who get the most out of working in my lab are proactive, motivated. In terms of outcomes, former Cao Lab students typically go on to pursue PhDs (not all in Chemistry), enter industry, or pursue a health career.