

Dr. Travis Fridgen is Associate Dean (Undergraduate and Administration) in the Faculty of Science at Memorial University. He has held senior academic leadership roles for more than a decade, including five years as Dean of Science (interim) and three years as Head of the Department of Chemistry. In these roles, he has led faculty-level strategic planning, supported the development of new and reimagined academic programs, advanced equity, diversity, and reconciliation initiatives, and overseen complex academic and budgetary portfolios during periods of significant institutional change.

A physical chemist, Dr. Fridgen's research focuses on non-covalent interactions in biomolecules using a combination of mass spectrometry, spectroscopy, and computational chemistry. He has supervised numerous graduate and undergraduate researchers and maintains an active, collaborative, and internationally recognized research program.

Equally central to his academic work is a strong commitment to teaching and student learning. Dr. Fridgen is known as an experimentalist in the classroom, routinely creating, adopting, and evaluating evidence-informed approaches to improve student engagement and success. He is a co-author of a widely used first-year chemistry textbook and the recipient of both the Inaugural Faculty of Science Distinguished Teacher Award and the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching at Memorial University.

He holds a B.Sc. in Chemistry from Trent University and both a B.Ed. and Ph.D. from Queen's University through the Trent–Queen's cooperative programs. He completed an NSERC postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Waterloo and began his academic career as an Assistant Professor at Laurier University before moving to Memorial. In his work, Dr. Fridgen values the relationships and shared purpose that sustain effective academic communities and brings a grounded, people-first approach shaped by experience in the classroom, laboratory, and senior administration. He is deeply committed to creating inclusive, student-centred environments that support research excellence, meaningful learning, and strong connections between universities and the communities they serve.