Robert “Bob” Doedens, UC Irvine Professor of Chemistry, dies age 87

Doedens served as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education and worked to better undergraduate education at the university.

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

UC Irvine School of Physical Sciences



Bob was known for his work synthesizing compounds with unusual physical and chemical properties. His research contributed meaningfully to the field, and his commitment to teaching and mentorship left a lasting legacy at UC Irvine.

The UC Irvine School of Physical Sciences mourns the passing of Professor Emeritus Robert “Bob” Doedens, a foundational member of the Department of Chemistry and a dedicated advocate for undergraduate education. He passed away earlier this month at the age of 87.

Professor Doedens joined UC Irvine in 1968, just three years after receiving his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he was a National Science Foundation Predoctoral Fellow. He received his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee in 1961.

An accomplished inorganic chemist, Bob was known for his work synthesizing compounds with unusual physical and chemical properties. His research contributed meaningfully to the field, and his commitment to teaching and mentorship left a lasting legacy at UC Irvine.

As Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, he championed initiatives to improve the undergraduate experience at UC Irvine. He was especially known for his thoughtful and compassionate mentorship, often providing guidance and support to students who needed it most.

Professor Doedens was a thoughtful, gentle soul, and will be remembered for his scientific contributions and for his deep care for students and colleagues alike. His legacy lives on through the Robert Doedens Undergraduate Achievement Award, awarded to one outstanding transfer undergraduate student each year.

Chemistry
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