

CHEMISTRY

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

ANALYTICAL

Research
Development
Analysis and Testing
Consulting
Environmental
Forensics

Federal, state, and local government
Federal agencies including National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Manufacturing firms including textile, petroleum, food, electronics, glass, paper, packaging, machinery, cosmetics, paint, drug, and chemical industries
Industrial production and inspection agencies
Research laboratories and organizations
Environmental protection organizations
Colleges and universities

Familiarize yourself with federal, state, and local government job application processes.
Gain experience in a laboratory setting.
Develop proficiency with high-tech scientific equipment.
Take electives in your area of interest.

BIOCHEMICAL

Research
Development
Analysis and Testing
Consulting
Quality Control
Medical
Environmental
Industrial Health & Safety
Hospital Administration

Research laboratories and organizations
Pharmaceutical and medical research firms
Biotechnology firms
Plant and animal breeders and growers
Food processors
Industrial production and inspection agencies
Environmental protection organizations
Federal, state and local government, such as the Centers for Disease Control
Colleges and universities

Take additional courses in biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, cytology, and physiology.
Develop excellent laboratory and computer skills.
Get involved with undergraduate research with professors.
Join related professional organizations.
Complete a related internship with an organization in the area of your interest.

ORGANIC

Research
Development
Analysis and Testing
Quality Control
Consulting

Industries related to petroleum, coal, wood products, plastics, textiles, and food
Manufacturing firms developing new synthetic materials and new production processes
Research organizations
Federal and state government
Colleges and universities

Gain additional laboratory and research experience through internships and summer jobs.
Get involved with undergraduate research with professors.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>GEOCHEMISTRY</u> Environmental Remediation Research & Development Analysis & Testing	Research laboratories and organizations Industries involved in mining, electronics, and synthetic materials Federal and state government Colleges and universities	Take geology & environmental science electives.
<u>INORGANIC</u> Research Analysis and Testing Quality Control Consulting	Environmental organizations Water processing plants Natural resources organizations	Choose appropriate coursework to specialize in an area. Develop additional laboratory skills and experience.
<u>POLYMER CHEMISTRY</u> Analysis & Testing Research & Development	Industries involving textiles and plastics	Gain research experience through internships, part-time employment, and summer jobs.
<u>PHYSICAL</u> Research Development Analysis and Testing Quality Control Consulting	Research laboratories and organizations Industries involving electrical, nuclear, gas, heat, or light energy Federal government Colleges and universities	Take related courses in social sciences and economics. Develop strong mathematical background.
<u>EDUCATION</u> Teaching Research Administration	Private and public secondary schools Colleges and universities	Obtain certification/licensing for teaching in public schools. Acquire a master's degree for community college teaching and a Ph.D. for colleges and universities. Take courses in public speaking.
<u>BUSINESS</u> Technical Sales/Marketing Pharmaceutical Sales Management Consulting Industrial Quality Control Research & Development	Manufacturing firms Drug stores Medical/Pharmaceutical supply companies Industries including textiles, petroleum, food, electronics, glass, paper, packaging, machinery, cosmetics, paint, drugs, and chemicals. Agricultural product companies Environmental management organizations Waste management firms	Obtain a minor in business. Develop strong verbal and written communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills. Hold leadership positions in campus organizations. Join related student organizations, e.g., American Marketing Association, Financial Management Association, Public Relations Student Society of America, etc.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>TECHNICAL WRITING</u> Writing Editing	Research product development departments and organizations Publishing firms including books, scientific and research journals, technical press, large newspapers, and wire services Internet sites	Take advanced technical writing courses. Develop word processing and desktop publishing skills.
<u>LAW</u> Patent Law Legislation and Lobbying	Manufacturing firms Research and development firms Law firms Private practice Environmental agencies	Obtain law degree to become an attorney.
<u>INFORMATION SPECIALISTS/TECHNICAL LIBRARIES</u>	Special libraries Research organizations Colleges and universities Large manufacturing firms, especially chemicals and pharmaceuticals	Obtain master's degree in library and information science. Develop computer retrieval skills. Join Special Libraries Association, Chemistry Division.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Undergraduate degree sufficient for entry-level positions such as lab coordinator, research assistant, product testing or analysis, technical sales, or service representative.
- Maintain high grade point average and secure strong recommendations for graduate school.
- Master's degree sufficient for most applied research positions, industrial work, and some community college teaching.
- Find research opportunities with professors and other experts in the field to gain experience.
- Ph.D. degree required for university teaching and advanced positions in management and research and development. Postdoctoral experience is preferred for research positions in industry, universities, and government.
- Advanced degrees help speed career advancement.
- Develop strong computer, mathematics, and science skills/knowledge.
- Obtain part-time, volunteer, co-op, internship, or summer experience.
- Obtain practical experience using various laboratory equipment and high-tech scientific equipment and data.
- Complete an undergraduate research project.
- Consider electives in computer science, engineering, business, public speaking, and writing.
- Join related student professional organizations.