

CHEMISTRY

What can I do with this degree?

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

Learn federal, state, and local government job application process.
Gain experience in a laboratory.
Become proficient 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.

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.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

GEOCHEMISTRY

Environmental Remediation
Research & Development
Analysis & Testing

Environmental organizations
Water processing plants
Natural resources organizations

Take Geology & Environmental Science electives.

INORGANIC

Research
Analysis and Testing
Quality Control
Consulting

Research laboratories and organizations
Industries involved in mining, electronics, and synthetic materials
Federal and state government
Colleges and universities

Choose appropriate coursework to specialize in an area.
Develop additional laboratory skills and experience.

POLYMER CHEMISTRY

Research & Development
Analysis & Testing

Industrial & commercial organizations such as textiles and plastics

Gain research experience.

PHYSICAL

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.
Obtain strong mathematical background.

EDUCATION

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.

BUSINESS

Technical Sales/Marketing
Pharmaceutical Sales
Management
Banking/Finance
Advertising/Public Relations
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

Take courses in public speaking.
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

TECHNICAL WRITING

Proposals
Specification Manuals
Writing
Editing

Research product development departments and organizations
Publishing firms including books, scientific and research journals, technical press, large newspapers, and wire services

Take advanced technical writing courses.
Become proficient with word processing and desktop publishing.

LAW

Patent Agents
Patent Attorneys
Legislator/Lobbyist

Manufacturing firms
Research and development firms
Law firms
Private practice
Environmental agencies

Obtain law degree to become an attorney.

INFORMATION SPECIALISTS/TECHNICAL LIBRARIES

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.
- Master's degree sufficient for most applied research positions, industrial work, and some community college teaching.
- 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.
- Maintain excellent grades.
- Complete an undergraduate research project.
- Consider electives in computer science, engineering, business, public speaking, and writing.
- Join related student professional organizations.
- Read related professional magazines and journals.