

What Can I Do with a Major in...

Chemistry

Why Chemistry?

Skill sets:

- Ability to make critical observations and appropriate decisions
- Ability to operate scientific equipment
- Ability to organize and maintain accurate records
- Good vision and manual dexterity
- Ability to conduct and clearly explain scientific research
- Strong mathematical background
- Proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and memorization
- Sensitivity to the health and safety of others
- Ability to analyze data and find new ways of doing things

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www.mscd.edu/~career/

Chemistry majors develop skills that may lead to a wide variety of occupational tracks. Trained to think both analytically and creatively, chemists solve practical as well as research problems—skills that are readily transferable to many careers.

Chemistry provides answers to questions about the living and material world around us. Knowledge of chemistry is essential to understanding fields ranging from cell biology to materials science. In addition to careers directly related to chemistry, chemistry majors find employment opportunities in such diverse fields as medicine, veterinary medicine, chiropractic medicine, osteopathy, pharmacology, pharmaceuticals, physical therapy, dentistry, medical technology, engineering, criminology, and law.



Knowledge of chemistry is also crucial to environmental protection efforts as well as to preserving the health and safety of mankind.

Chemistry majors may be employed in such diverse settings as research, education, government, and private industry. Nearly 70 percent of chemists have jobs in the industrial sector.

Others work in academia, for nonprofit organizations and government agencies.

Almost half of all chemists work in research. Often chemists combine teaching and research, administrative, and production work.

The Wake Forest University Chemistry Department offers undergraduate students either a BA or BS degree in Chemistry.

Abridged and reprinted from: http://career.cpp.uga.edu/ccweb/multimedia/majors_handouts/Chemistry.pdf and www.mscd.edu/~career/chemistr.htm

Remember....No matter what your major is, it is important to complement your educational experience with internships, volunteer work, and other extracurricular activities. Employers are interested in your skills and abilities, not just your major. Majoring in a certain area does not require you to choose a certain career field.

Office of Career Services

Wake Forest University
Reynolda Hall, Room 8
Winston-Salem, NC 27109

Appointments may be
made in person or by calling:
758-5902

Office Hours:
Monday–Friday
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

www.wfu.edu/career

Department of Chemistry

Salem Hall
758-5325

www.wfu.edu/academics/chemistry

What Is a Chemist? Chemical Engineer?

A chemist searches for and puts to practical use new knowledge about chemicals. She or he often works in research and development. In basic research, the chemist would investigate the properties, composition, and structure of matter and the laws that govern the combination of elements and reactions of substances. In applied research and development, chemists create new products and processes or improve existing ones, often using knowledge gained from basic research.



A chemical engineer applies principles of chemistry and engineering to solve problems involving the production or use of chemicals. Chemical engineers may design equipment and develop processes for the manufacturing of chemicals, plan and test methods of manufacturing the products and supervise production. Chemical engineering also is involved in other fields, such as electronics or aircraft manufacturing. Chemical engineers apply principles of chemistry, physics, mathematics, and mechanical and electrical engineering in their work. They frequently specialize in a particular operation such as oxidation or polymerization. Other specialties may include pollution control or production of a specific product.

Source: www.usm.maine.edu/csce/MajorsHTML/Chemisty.html

**Careers that often interest
chemistry majors***

Astronomer
Chemical Engineer
Chemist
Dentist
Dietician
Educator
Food and Drug Analyst
Food Technologist
Forensic Chemist
Genetic Counselor
Hospital Administrator
Laboratory Analyst
Medical Laboratory Technician
Medical Researcher
Meteorologist
Pharmaceuticals Researcher
Pharmacist
Physician
Toxicologist
Veterinarian

**some of these careers require
graduate education*

Additional Resources and Contacts

Check out these sites for more information about chemistry and careers related to chemistry:

American Chemical Society www.chemistry.org (Also includes information about Student Affiliates in Educators & Students section)

American Chemical Society Publications pubs.acs.org/about.html

ChemWeb www.chemweb.com/

BioMedNet www.bmn.com/

American Association for the Advancement of Science www.aaas.org/

Journal of Chemical Education jchemed.chem.wisc.edu/

Considering Graduate School?

For specific information and advice on pursuing a graduate degree in chemistry, see a faculty member in the chemistry department.

For general information on graduate school—applying, interviewing, admissions tests, schools—check out the Career Resource Center, Reynolda Hall, Room 11, and/or schedule an appointment with one of the career counselors.