What can I do with a major in Chemistry?

Overview

- Chemistry is fundamental. To understand why leaves change color in the fall, why a diamond is hard or why soap cleans requires an understanding of chemistry. Knowledge of chemistry prepares us for the real world. A college graduate with a chemistry degree is in a good position to choose a useful and interesting career. If your goal is to become a research scientist, teacher or surgeon, you should examine chemistry as a major. Students who choose chemistry usually find it as interesting as it is challenging.

Career Titles

Cytotechnologist	Odontologist
Dairy Technologist	Oil and Petroleum Chemist
 Dental Lab Technician 	Optometrist
Dentist	Organic Chemist
 Dialysis Technician 	 Osteopathic Physician
Dietician	■ Paint Chemist
Drug Analyst	■ Patent Examiner
	Pathologist
	■ Perfumer
	Pest Control Analyst
 Environmental Chemist 	 Petroleum Inspector
	 Pharmaceutical Chemist
	 Pharmaceutical Sales
•	Representative
 EPA Inspector 	Pharmacist
 Food and Drug Inspector 	Pharmacologist
 Food Chemist 	 Physical Chemist
 Forensic Chemist 	Physician
 Forensic Toxicologist 	Physician's Assistant
 Genetic Counselor 	Physicist
Geneticist	 Plastics Engineer
Geochemist	 Pollution Control Chemist
Geologist	Polymer Chemist
 Hazardous Waste Management Specialist 	 Product Safety Engineer
 Hematology Technologist 	Product Tester
Histopathologist	Proteins Chemist
 Horticulturalist 	Psychiatrist
 Hospital Administrator 	 Quality Assurance Manager
Hydrologist	 Quality Control Manager
■ Industrial Hygienist	■ Radiologist
■ Inorganic Chemist	Sanitarian
■ Insecticides Tester	 Scientific Equipment Sales Representative
Journalist	 Scientific Photographer
Lab Technician	Scientific Writer
 Land Reclamation Chemist 	Scientist
	Serologist
	 Soil Conservationist
	Soil Scientist
	Spectroscopist
	Steroids Chemist
	 Dental Lab Technician Dentist Dialysis Technician Dietician Drug Analyst Ecologist Entomologist Environmental Analyst Environmental Chemist Environmental Health Specialist Enzymologist EPA Inspector Food and Drug Inspector Forensic Chemist Forensic Toxicologist Genetic Counselor Geneticist Geochemist Geologist Hazardous Waste Management Specialist Hematology Technologist Horticulturalist Hospital Administrator Hydrologist Industrial Hygienist Inorganic Chemist Insecticides Tester Journalist Lab Technician



CAREER & PROFESSIONAL

DEVELOPMENT

COLLEGE		DEVELOPMENT
Chemical Technician	Medicinal Chemist	Systems Analyst
■ Chemist	Metallurgist	■ Teacher
Chemistry Technologist	Mineralogist	Technical Writer
Clarifying Plant Operator	 Molecular Biologist 	■ Textile Chemist
Clinical Chemist	 Museum Curator 	 Tissue Technologist
Clinical Toxicologist	Mycologist	Toxicologist
Colloid and Surface Chemist	Nanotechnologist	 Translator, Scientific Documen
Color Development Chemist	 Narcotics Investigator 	 Underwater Technician
Combustion Engineer	Neurochemist	 Vector Control Assistant
Conservationist	 Nuclear Scientist 	Veterinarian
Cosmetic Analyst	■ Nurse	 Wastewater Treatment Chemist
Crime Lab Analyst	Nutritionist	 Water Purification Chemist
Criminologist	 Occupational Safety Specialist 	 Wood Technologist
Crystallographer	Oceanographer	Yeast Culture Developer
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Employers		
 Aerospace and Components Firms 	■ Forestry Centers	Professional and Technical Journals
 Agricultural Companies 	Fuels and Fuel Dealerships	Publishing Companies
Airlines	■ Furniture Companies	 Research & Consulting Organizations
Atomic Energy Firms	 Glass Production Companies 	Sanitary Services
Beverage Processing Companies	■ Hospitals	 Shipping, Water, and Transportation Companies
Biotechnology Firms	 Insurance Companies 	■ Textile Manufacturers
Centers for Disease Control	Laboratories	 Tire and Rubber Companies
Chemical Companies	 Manufacturing & Processing Companies 	■ Tobacco Companies
College & Universities	 Medical Laboratories 	 U.S. Department of Agricultur
Commercial Testing Laboratories	 Medical Research Firms 	■ U.S. Department of Commerce
Cosmetic Companies	 Medical/Technical Libraries 	 U.S. Department of Defense
Drug Companies	Metal and Mineral Products Companies	 U.S. Department of Energy
Electric Light & Power Services	Mining Companies	 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Engineering Firms	 Newspapers and Magazines 	 U.S. Department of Interior
Environmental Protection Agency	■ Paper Companies	 U.S. Department of Labor
Food and Drug Administration	■ Petroleum Refineries	 Utilities Companies
Food Processing Companies	 Pharmaceutical Companies 	·
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Skills Ability to derive information from	Canability to improve industrial	■ Perception
Ability to derive information from computers	 Capability to improve industrial processes with the purpose of creating more efficient and effective methods for creating and studying of chemicals. 	
Ability to make critical observations/decisions	 Capacity to understand and express complex scientific and technical information. 	 Perform experiments
 Ability to organize and interpret data 	 Careful record keeping skills. 	■ Perseverance



CAREER & PROFESSIONAL

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 Ability to think creatively and logically. 	■ Conduct research	■ Pleasure in learning new skills
• Ability to use scientific equipment and measuring instruments.	Curiosity	Possess good vision and manual dexterity.
 Acute observational skills 	 Designing an experiment, plan or model that systematically defines a problem 	 Potential to predict outcomes of mixing substances.
 Advanced critical thinking, problem solving, and research skills. 	Develop theories	Precision/accuracy
Analytical skills	 Evaluating information against appropriate standards 	Present/summarize research findings
 Applying appropriate methods to test the validity of data 	 Expert analysis of biological and chemical substances. 	Process data
Applying concepts	 Generate research projects and ideas 	■ Remain objective
 Applying information creatively to solve specific problems 	 Good manual dexterity and analytical reasoning. 	 Review large amounts of material and extracting essence
 Aptitude for accurate details 	Innovation	 Solve quantitative problems
 Attending to data 	 Manipulate information using expertise in mathematics 	■ Technical report preparation
 Attention to detail 	 Observation and decision making 	 Technological skills
Breaking down principles into parts	Oral and written communication	■ Test an idea/hypothesis
Calculating skills	 Organize/report data 	Utilize formulas
 Capability of conducting research and statistically analyzing the data 	 Perceive and define cause and effect relationships 	Work independently and in groups

Salary Information

NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers) Summer 2012 Salary Survey Average Offers:

■ Chemistry Bachelor's Degree: \$42,600

The job titles and employers listed below are a sample of the results from the annual St. Norbert College Career Services graduate follow-up survey for the Classes of 2003-2010.

Graduate Information: Job Titles				
Lab Assistant	■ Management	Scientist		
Graduate Information: Employers				
 Badger Labs 	Nature Pest Control	Kimberly-Clark		