INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

UC Berkeley offers two bachelor degrees in Chemistry: a Bachelor of Science (BS) through the College of Chemistry and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) through the College of Letters and Science. The College of Chemistry also offers a BS degree in Chemical Biology.

Students in both BS programs develop a strong foundation in experimental processes, instrumentation, and quantitative analysis; acquire a strong foundation in math and physics; and may also choose to pursue the Materials Chemistry concentration.

The BA program includes a greater number of humanities and social science courses than the BS degrees. Students who wish to pursue the BA degree should apply for admission to the College of Letters & Science.

WHICH DEGREE IS RIGHT FOR ME?

The Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees in Chemistry and Chemical Biology are intended for students who are primarily interested in careers as professional chemists or wish a thorough grounding in chemistry in preparation for professional or graduate school in chemistry and related disciplines.

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Chemistry is intended for students interested in careers in teaching, medicine, or other sciences in which a basic understanding of chemical processes is necessary. Students interested in subsequent graduate studies in chemistry will receive better preparation by pursuing the BS in Chemistry.

Having the opportunity to study chemistry at Cal is a wonderful educational experience....I am surrounded by a community of talented professors and classmates who really challenge you to think critically about today’s scientific problems.

– Jesus Aguilar

CONNECT WITH US

Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit chemistry.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING

Staff advisors are located in 121 Gilman Hall and are available to assist with schedule planning, course enrollment, study abroad, and other academic matters.

Faculty mentors are available to talk with you about career planning, research, internships, graduate school, and many other questions related to becoming a scientist.

Visit chemistry.berkeley.edu/ugrad/current-students/advisers to find your staff advisor and faculty mentor, and to book an appointment.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone's Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Apply to the Chemistry Scholars Program to be an Undergraduate Student Instructor.
- Apply to the CBE Innovation Incubator, a lab to conduct student-directed projects.
- Join Alpha Chi Sigma and connect with peers, attend tutoring sessions, and outreach with local primary schools.
Explore your major

Meet with your staff advisor to discuss your academic plans. Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements. Browse undergraduate student services in the college. Talk to peer advisors about life in the major.

Connect and build community

Join a College of Chemistry student organization. Visit peer tutors in Bixby Commons for help with chemistry, math, and physics. Get help from peer advisors in 121 Gilman Hall. Join the College of Chemistry group on LinkedIn.

Discover your passions

Talk to a faculty member about research, internships, careers, and graduate school. Browse the faculty research taking place in the college. Explore research opportunities in Chemistry. Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course.

Engage locally and globally

Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization. Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center. Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad. Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library. Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner. Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail. Read about chemistry as a profession and explore career resources on the College of Chemistry website.

Reflect and plan your future

Meet with a career counselor to discuss your career options and goals. Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter externship. Learn about graduate and professional school. See Step-by-Step for planning help. Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Jobs and Employers

 Analyst, BlackRock
 Analytical Operations, Genentech
 Associate, D.E. Shaw Research
 Chemist, Argonne National Lab
 Research Assoc., Latitute Pharm.
 Chemist, Metal Surfaces Inc.
 Lab Technician, Quest Diagnostics
 Synthetic Chemist Intern, US DOE
 Research Technician, Unv. of Chicago
 Scientist, Logichk Corporation

Graduate Programs

Analytical Chemistry, PhD
Atmospheric Sciences, PhD
Biochemistry, PhD
Biophysics, PhD
Chemical Physics, PhD
Chemistry, PhD
Inorganic Chemistry, PhD
Law, JD
Legal Studies, Masters
Materials Science, PhD
Medicine, DDS, MD
Neurobiology and Neurophysics, PhD
Nursing, Masters
Organic Chemistry, PhD
Pharmacology, PhD
Pharmacy, PharmD
Physical & Theoretical Chem., PhD
Toxicology, PhD

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

Updated Last: 06.06.23