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.

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.
DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY
SECOND YEAR

Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
Browse undergraduate student services in the college.
Talk to peer advisors about life in the major.

Meet with your staff advisor to discuss your academic plans.

Complete lower division prerequisites and start planning your upper division courses.
Review the college guidelines for study abroad.

Focus on upper division requirements.
Review your degree progress with your staff advisor.
For the Chemistry BS, consider adding a concentration.
Ask the staff advisor about the college honors programs.

Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
Complete any “bucket list” courses and finish remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
Complement your major with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Jobs and Employers

Analytical Chemistry, 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
Pharmacy, PharmD
Pharmacology, PhD
Pharmacy, Pharmacology
Physical & Theoretical Chem., PhD
Toxicology, PhD

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
Pharmacy, PharmD

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

Updated: 11.02.23