

What Can I Do With a Major in Chemistry?



Below is a list of job titles, employers and graduate schools that Harvey Mudd College chemistry alumni have chosen in the last five years.

Job Titles

General Education Instructor Lab Technician	Production Scientist Research Associate	Research Technician Sales Engineer	Support Scientist
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Employers

A2 Biotherapeutics Contour Energy Systems Counsyl	E. & J. Gallo Winery Intellectual Ventures John McNeil & Company	Medtronic Molecular Express Pacific Northwest National Laboratory	Park Systems Peace Corps (Volunteer) San Joaquin Valley College	Teach for America University of California, Los Angeles
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Starting Salary Summary

Average Salary Range
\$45,000–\$74,999

Graduate Schools

California Institute of Technology Case Western Reserve University City of Hope Colorado School of Mines Columbia University Cornell University Duke University	Georgia Institute of Technology Harvard University Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Johns Hopkins University Massachusetts Institute of Technology Medicine at Hofstra University Northwestern University Oregon Health and Science University	Princeton University Scripps Research Institute Stanford University University of California, Berkeley University of California, Davis University of California, Irvine University of California, Los Angeles	University of California, Riverside University of California, San Diego University of California, Santa Barbara University of Colorado, Boulder University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign University of North Carolina	University of Southern California University of Tennessee University of Texas at Austin University of Washington University of Wisconsin, Madison Washington University, St. Louis Yale University
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Summer Employers

Argonne National Laboratory Bolt Threads Bristol-Myers Squibb California Institute of Technology (SURF Program) California Medical Innovations Cleveland Clinic* Colorado School of Mines (REU)	Colorado State University (Chemistry REU) Drexel University Jet Propulsion Laboratory John McNeil and Company Mochtar Riady Institute for Nanotechnology (Indonesia) National Institute of Standards and Technology (REU)	Niagara Bottling Northeastern University* Northwestern University* Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (REU) Pomona College (REU) QuantAQ Seoul National University*	Texas Biomedical Research Institute The Translational Genomics Research Institute* UC Santa Barbara (Mechanical Engineering Lab) UC Santa Barbara (RISE) University of California, San Francisco* (REU)	University of Michigan* University of Wisconsin (REU) <i>*companies that hired first-year students</i>
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Average Summer Wage

First-year \$4,334 stipend	Sophomore \$4,709 stipend	Junior \$4,947 stipend
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Here are just a few areas that may interest a chemistry major.

Area

Employers

ANALYTICAL

Research and development
Analysis and testing
Consulting
Environmental
Forensics

Federal, state and local government
Federal agencies (e.g., NASA)
Manufacturing firms (e.g., textile, petroleum, food, electronics, machinery, cosmetics, paint, drug and chemical industries)
Industrial production and inspection agencies
Research laboratories and organizations
Environmental protection organizations
Colleges and universities

BIOCHEMICAL

Research and development
Analysis and testing
Consulting
Quality control
Medical
Environmental
Industrial health and safety
Hospital administration

Federal, state and local government (e.g., Centers for Disease Control)
Research laboratories
Pharmaceutical and medical research firms
Biotechnology firms
Agricultural companies
Plant growers and animal breeders
Food processors
Industrial production and inspection agencies
Environmental protection organizations
Colleges and universities

ORGANIC

Research and development
Quality control
Consulting

Federal and state government
Related industries in petroleum, coal, wood products and plastics
Manufacturing firms developing new synthetic materials and new production processes
Research organizations
Cosmetics companies
Engineering firms
Hospitals and medical clinics
Colleges and universities

What You Can Do Now

- Find research opportunities with professors and other experts in the field to gain experience.
- Develop strong computer, mathematics and science skills.
- Obtain part-time, volunteer, internship or summer experience.
- Take additional courses in biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, cytology and physiology.
- Obtain practical experience using various laboratory equipment and high-tech scientific equipment.
- Complete an undergraduate research project.
- Consider electives in computer science, engineering, business, public speaking and writing.
- Join related student professional organizations.

What You Can Do After Graduation

- An undergraduate degree is sufficient for entry-level positions such as lab coordinator, research assistant, product tester, analysis technician, technical sales representative or service representative.
- A master's degree is sufficient for most applied research positions, industrial work and some community college teaching.
- Advanced degrees help speed career advancement.
- A PhD is 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.



Student Affairs
Office of Career Services