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
- Production Scientist
- Research Technician
- Support Scientist
- Lab Technician
- Research Associate
- Sales Engineer
- Production Scientist
- Research Technician
- Support Scientist

**Employers**

- A2 Biotherapeutics
- Contour Energy Systems
- Counselor E. & J. Gallo Winery
- Medtronic
- Park Systems
- Teach for America
- Energy Systems
- Intellectual Ventures
- John McNeil & Company
- Molecular Express
- Peace Corps (Volunteer)
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- San Joaquin Valley College

**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 Medicine
- Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Medtronic
- Molecular Express
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (REU)
- Northeastern University* (Mechanical Engineering Lab)
- Northwestern University*
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (REU)
- Pomona College (REU)
- 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

**Summer Employers**

- Argonne National Laboratory
- Bolt Threads
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Colorado State University (Chemistry REU)
- Colorado School of Mines (REU)
- Drexel University
- Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- John McNeil and Company
- Mochtar Riady Institute for Nanotechnology (Indonesia)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (REU)
- Northeastern University*
- Northwestern University*
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (REU)
- Pomona College (REU)
- QuantAQ
- Seoul National University*
- Scripps Research Institute
- 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)

**Average Summer Wage**

- **First-year**
  - $4,334 stipend
- **Sophomore**
  - $4,709 stipend
- **Junior**
  - $4,947 stipend

*companies that hired first-year students
Here are just a few areas that may interest a chemistry major.

### Area

#### ANALYTICAL
- Research and development
- Analysis and testing
- Consulting
- Environmental
- Forensics

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

#### ORGANIC
- Research and development
- Quality control
- Consulting

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<th>Area</th>
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| ANALYTICAL | 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 | Federal and state 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 | 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.