

What Can I Do With a Major in Chemistry?



Harvey Mudd College chemistry alumni went on to the following organizations and universities between 2021 and 2025.

Job Titles

Apprentice Associate Instrument Scientist Materials Engineer

Employers

Aerodyne Research Inc. Niagara Bottling Octant Inc.

Graduate Schools

Colorado State University Northwestern University UC Santa Barbara University of Michigan
Cornell University Stanford University UNC Chapel Hill University of Pennsylvania
Erasmus Mundus UC Berkeley University of Colorado Boulder University of Tennessee
Michigan State University UC Irvine University of Massachusetts University of Washington

Summer Employers

Abbott Laboratories CSL Behring Niagara Bottling Thermofisher **companies that hired first-year students*
BioMarin* Cyclopure Northeastern University* UC Riverside REU
Bristol-Myers Squibb Gilead Sciences Pacific Northwest National Lab UC San Diego REU
Colorado School of Mines REU Lawrence Livermore National Lab PW-Educational Tools USC REU
Cornell REU Lonza Quant AQ University of Michigan REU
Cornell University REU Merck The Harker School University of Utah*

Here are 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

Areas of interest for a chemistry major (CONTINUED)

Area

Employers

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.
- Additional training and certifications may be required for teaching at the K-12 level.

