

CHEMISTRY

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

ANALYTICAL

Research
Development
Analysis and Testing
Consulting
Industrial Quality Control
Environmental
Forensics

Federal, state and local government
Federal agencies including National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Manufacturing firms including textile, petroleum, food, electronics, glass, paper, packaging, machinery, cosmetics, paint, drug and chemical industries
Industrial production and inspection
Research laboratories and organizations
Environmental protection organizations
Colleges and universities

Learn federal, state and local government job application process.
Develop excellent laboratory skills.
Become proficient with high-tech scientific equipment.
Take electives in area of interest.

BIOCHEMICAL

Research
Development
Analysis and Testing
Consulting
Quality Control
Medical
Environmental

Research laboratories and organizations
Pharmaceutical and medical research firms
Biotechnology firms
Plant and animal breeders and growers
Food processors
Industrial production and inspection
Environmental protection organizations
Federal, state and local government
Colleges and universities

Take additional courses in biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, cytology and physiology.
Learn federal, state and local government job application process.

ORGANIC

Research
Development
Analysis and Testing
Quality Control
Consulting

Industries related to petroleum, coal, wood products, plastics, textiles and food
Manufacturing firms developing new synthetic materials and new production processes
Research organizations
Federal and state government
Colleges and universities

Gain additional laboratory and research experience.
Take electives in area of interest.
Learn federal and state government job application process.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

INORGANIC

Research
Analysis and Testing
Quality Control
Consulting

Research laboratories and organizations
Industries involved in mining, electronics, and
synthetic materials
Federal and state government
Colleges and universities

Choose appropriate coursework to specialize in an
area.
Develop additional laboratory skills and experience.
Learn federal and state government job application
process.

PHYSICAL

Research
Development
Analysis and Testing
Quality Control
Consulting

Research laboratories and organizations
Industries involving electrical, nuclear, gas, heat, or
light energy
Federal government
Colleges and universities

Take related courses in social sciences and
economics.
Obtain strong mathematical background.
Learn federal government job application process.

EDUCATION

Teaching
Research

Private and public secondary schools
Colleges and universities

Obtain certification/licensing for teaching in public
schools.
Acquire master's degree for community college
teaching and Ph.D. for colleges and universities.
Take courses in public speaking.
Develop excellent laboratory skills.

BUSINESS

Technical Sales/Marketing
Pharmaceutical Sales
Management
Banks/Financial Institutions
Advertising/Public Relations
Consulting

Manufacturing firms
Drug stores
Medical/Pharmaceutical supply companies
Industries including textiles, petroleum, food,
electronics, glass, paper, packaging, machinery,
cosmetics, paint, drugs, and chemicals.

Obtain a minor in business.
Develop strong verbal and written communication,
interpersonal, and organizational skills.
Hold leadership positions in campus organizations.
Join related student organizations, e.g., American
Marketing Association, Financial Management
Association, Public Relations Student Society of
America, etc.

TECHNICAL WRITING

Proposals
Specification Manuals
Writing
Editing

Research product development departments and
organizations
Industries
Publishing firms including books, scientific and
research journals, technical press, large
newspapers and wire services

Take advanced technical writing courses.
Become proficient with word processing.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

LAW

Patent Agents
Patent Attorneys

Manufacturing firms
Research and development firms
Law firms
Private practice

Obtain law degree for patent attorney.

INFORMATION SPECIALISTS/TECHNICAL LIBRARIES

Special libraries
Research organizations
Colleges and universities
Large manufacturing firms, especially chemicals and pharmaceuticals

Obtain master's degree in library and information science.
Develop computer retrieval skills.
Join Special Libraries Association, Chemistry Division.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Undergraduate degree sufficient for entry-level positions such as lab coordinator, research assistant, product testing or analysis, technical sales or service representative.
- Master's degree sufficient for most applied research positions, industrial work, and some community college teaching.
- Ph.D. degree required for university teaching and advanced positions in management and research and development.
- Advanced degrees help speed career development.
- Develop strong computer, mathematics and science skills/knowledge.
- Obtain part-time, volunteer, co-op, internship or summer experience.
- Obtain practical experience using various laboratory equipment and high-tech scientific equipment and data.
- Maintain excellent grades.
- Postdoctoral experience is preferred for research positions in industry, universities and government.
- Consider electives in computer science, engineering, business, public speaking and writing.
- Join related student professional organizations.
- Read related professional magazines and literature.