

CHEMISTRY

Program Description

Chemistry

Chemistry is the systematic study of matter in the universe. It is often referred to as the “central science” in that it acts as the connection between many other disciplines including physics, biology, engineering, earth science, environmental science and medicine. Chemistry students gain a unique perspective on the composition, properties and reactivity of the substances surrounding them. These students gain problem-solving skills that can be applied in chemistry labs, in other classes and in day-to-day life. By having chemistry faculty with a diverse range of specialties (analytical chemistry, biochemistry, inorganic chemistry, physical chemistry and organic chemistry), our chemistry majors have the opportunity to learn about each of these fields. Recent graduates have been successful in the chemical industry and in secondary education. Many have continued their education in graduate and professional schools (including Yale University, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Denver, University of Florida, University of Utah, and the University of Washington).

Opportunities for student research are numerous and the program is well equipped with modern chemical instrumentation, including a 400 MHz FT-NMR spectrometer, FT-IR and UV-visible spectrophotometers, high performance liquid and ion chromatographs and an inductively-coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometer.

As the “central science,” a strong background in chemistry is a wonderful complement to many other majors. A chemistry minor should be considered by any student who is interested in a career in science, medicine, patent law or technical sales.

Biochemistry

We offer a concentration in biochemistry within the chemistry degree. Biochemistry students build a strong foundation in chemistry and apply their knowledge to problems in chemistry and biology. Students learn to critically analyze chemical structures and chemical and biochemical reactions, skills which are necessary for success in fields of biochemistry, medicinal chemistry, medicine, pharmacy and chemical biology. By taking upper division courses in chemistry and biology, biochemistry majors develop a strong understanding of both subjects. Through research under a chemistry or biology faculty member, students can enhance their laboratory and critical thinking skills.

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Programs of Study

Bachelors/Minors

- [Biochemistry, Chemistry \(BS\)](#)
- [Chemistry \(BS\)](#)
- [Chemistry \(Minor\)](#)