

Chemistry (BA/BS)

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry offers majors in chemistry and biochemistry. Biochemistry majors complete an integrated, rigorous program that includes foundational course work in chemistry and biochemistry and additional course work in related fields. Undergraduate majors benefit from taking graduate courses in synthetic modeling, physical chemistry, materials, computational chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology, and modern instrumental techniques.

The American Chemistry Society-certified degree emphasizes laboratory experience and the development of professional skills. A unique strength of the department is the opportunity for undergraduates to participate in the activities of a dynamic research group that considers problems extending well beyond textbook instruction.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- **Coursework:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental concepts in the basic areas of the discipline (organic, inorganic, analytical, physical, and biochemical). Students will demonstrate a firm foundation in the conceptual, quantitative, and computational thinking that underlies the theories and models that form the basis for reasoning about molecular systems. Students will be able to connect this theoretical understanding to the experimental methods used to test those theories and models. Students will also have opportunities to obtain in-depth knowledge in multiple areas of the discipline. The foundational and in-depth coursework will be aligned with the most recent American Chemical Society Guidelines for Chemistry Programs (<https://www.acs.org/education/policies/acs-approval-program.html>).
- **Instructional Laboratory:** Students will demonstrate proficiency in laboratory techniques and the use of modern instrumentation. Students will be able to carry out experiments in the laboratory, accurately record data and observations, and be able to analyze the results of experiments. Students will be able to handle, synthesize, purify, and characterize new and existing substances. This includes knowing the proper procedures and regulations for the safe handling, use and disposal of chemicals.
- **Research:** Students will employ critical thinking and the scientific method to design, carry out, record, analyze and communicate the results of chemical/biochemical experiments. This includes the ability to identify, or create an appropriate model, formulate a hypothesis, choose an appropriate set of tools and techniques, and design an experiment that tests the hypothesis and analyze the results from that experiment drawing sound scientific conclusions from the results obtained. Students must be able to locate, identify and critically evaluate the chemical/biochemical literature.
- **Communication:** Students will demonstrate effective scientific communication skills, both orally and in writing, to a range of audience levels and for a variety of purposes. Students will understand how scientific information is shared between peers in modern science, including responsible conduct for acknowledging prior and current contributions.
- **Professional Skills:** Students will develop the interpersonal skills to function cooperatively in a team setting. Students will successfully pursue their career objectives in advanced education in professional and/or graduate schools, in a scientific career in government or

industry, in a teaching career in the school systems, or in a related career following graduation.

- **Ethics:** Students will be able to understand and apply ethics and values to all professional activities. Students will demonstrate an awareness of the benefits and impacts of chemistry related to the environment, society, and other disciplines outside the scientific community. Students will be prepared to contribute solutions to society's challenges at the intersection of science and society.

The program described below is the recommended curriculum for chemistry majors. It includes courses in chemistry and related fields. Courses taken to satisfy major requirements must be passed with grades of C– or better. Variations in courses and order may be worked out in consultation with an advisor. Advisors can also provide lists of substitute courses and courses that are recommended but not required.

Students are encouraged to participate in CH 401 Research: [Topic].

Chemistry Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Chemistry Courses		
CH 224H–226H or CH 221–223	Honors General Chemistry General Chemistry	12
CH 227–229 or CH 237–239	General Chemistry Laboratory Advanced General Chemistry Laboratory	6
CH 341–343	Majors Track Organic Chemistry I–III	12
CH 337	Organic Chemistry Laboratory	3
CH 348–349	Organic Chemistry Lab for Majors	8
CH 411–413	Physical Chemistry	12
CH 417–419	Physical Chemistry Laboratory	12
Advanced Electives (see Advanced Electives table below)		9–12
CH 429	Instrumental Analysis	5
Related Science Requirements		
MATH 251–253	Calculus I–III	12
MATH 256	Introduction to Differential Equations	4
MATH 281	Several-Variable Calculus I	4
PHYS 251–253 or PHYS 201–203	Foundations of Physics I General Physics	12
PHYS 290 or PHYS 204–206	Foundations of Physics Laboratory (three terms) Introductory Physics Laboratory	3–6
Total Credits		114–120

Advanced Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Advanced electives (e.g., three courses or 9 credits of research or one course and 6 credits of research) chosen from the following: ¹		9–12
CH 401	Research: [Topic]	
CH 420	Physical Organic Chemistry I	
CH 421	Physical Organic Chemistry II	
CH 431	Inorganic Chemistry	

CH 432	Inorganic Chemistry	
CH 433	Inorganic Chemistry	
CH 441	Quantum Chemistry	
CH 442	Quantum Chemistry and Spectroscopy	
CH 443	Quantum Chemistry and Spectroscopy	
CH 445	Statistical Mechanics	
CH 446	Chemical Kinetics: [Topic]	
CH 447	Computational Chemistry	
CH 451	Advanced Organic-Inorganic Chemistry	
CH 452	Advanced Organic Chemistry— Stereochemistry and Reactions	
CH 454	Advanced Electrochemistry	
CH 461	Biochemistry	
CH 462	Biochemistry	
CH 463	Biochemistry	
CH 464	RNA Biochemistry	
CH 465	Physical Biochemistry	
CH 466	Structural Biochemistry	
CH 467	Biochemistry Laboratory	
CH 468	Cellular Biochemistry	
ERTH 471	Thermodynamic Geochemistry	
ERTH 472	Aqueous-Mineral-Gas Equilibria	
ERTH 473	Isotope Geochemistry	
PHYS 411– 413	Mechanics, Electricity, and Magnetism	
PHYS 414– 415	Quantum Physics	
Total Credits		9-12

¹ Other courses may be included with advisor approval.

Honors Program

The criteria used for the selection of students who graduate with departmental honors in chemistry or biochemistry are as follows:

1. Grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.50 in all graded courses
2. Suitable accomplishment in undergraduate chemical or related research. Specifically, the student must pursue a research problem for one academic year or longer and be recommended as worthy of honors by the faculty supervisor. Positive accomplishment and publishable results are expected but not required
3. Endorsement for a major with honors by a member of the university faculty
4. Completion of all course requirements for the BS degree in chemistry (waivers or substitutions allowed with approval)

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
MATH 112Z or MATH 251	Precalculus II: Trigonometry or Calculus I	4	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
CH 221 or CH 224H	General Chemistry I or Advanced General Chemistry I	4	
CH 227	General Chemistry Laboratory	2	
Credits		14	
Winter			
WR 123 or WR 122Z	College Composition III or Composition II	4	
CH 222 or CH 225H	General Chemistry II or Advanced General Chemistry II	4	
CH 228	General Chemistry Laboratory	2	
MATH 251 or MATH 252	Calculus I or Calculus II	4	
Credits		14	
Spring			
CH 223 or CH 226H	General Chemistry III or Advanced General Chemistry III	4	
CH 229	General Chemistry Laboratory	2	
MATH 252 or MATH 253	Calculus II or Calculus III	4	
General-education course in arts and letters		4	
Meet with an advisor if interested in undergraduate research.			
All majors take the American Chemical Society Exam at the end of the academic year.			
Credits		14	
Total Credits		42	
Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
PHYS 201 or PHYS 251	General Physics or Foundations of Physics I	4	
PHYS 204 or PHYS 290	Introductory Physics Laboratory or Foundations of Physics Laboratory	2	
CH 337	Organic Chemistry Laboratory	3	
CH 341	Majors Track Organic Chemistry I	4	
Students should meet with an advisor to create an individual development plan			
Credits		13	

Winter

PHYS 202 or PHYS 252	General Physics or Foundations of Physics I	4
PHYS 205 or PHYS 290	Introductory Physics Laboratory or Foundations of Physics Laboratory	2
CH 342	Majors Track Organic Chemistry II	4
CH 348	Organic Chemistry Laboratory for Majors	4
Credits		14

Spring

PHYS 203 or PHYS 253	General Physics or Foundations of Physics I	4
PHYS 206 or PHYS 290	Introductory Physics Laboratory or Foundations of Physics Laboratory	2
CH 343	Majors Track Organic Chemistry III	4
CH 349	Organic Chemistry Lab for Majors	4
	General-education course in social science	4
Majors take the American Chemical Society Exam at the end of the academic year.		
Students interested in undergraduate research should make arrangements to start.		
Credits		18
Total Credits		45

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
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Third Year**Fall**

CH 411	Physical Chemistry	4
CH 417	Physical Chemistry Laboratory	4
MATH 256 or MATH 281	Introduction to Differential Equations or Several-Variable Calculus I	4
	First term of first-year second-language sequence (BA only)	5
Students should meet with an advisor to review their four-year plan and individual development plan		
Credits		17

Winter

CH 412	Physical Chemistry	4
CH 418	Physical Chemistry Laboratory	4
	Second term of first-year second-language sequence (BA only)	5
	General-education course that also satisfies multicultural requirement	4
Credits		17

Spring

CH 413	Physical Chemistry	4
CH 419	Physical Chemistry Laboratory	4
	Third term of first-year second-language sequence (BA only)	5

	General-education course in social science	4
Credits		17
Total Credits		51

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
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Fourth Year**Fall**

CH 401	Research: [Topic]	2
	400-level course in chemistry, earth sciences, or physics	4
	First term of second-year second-language sequence (BA only)	5
	General-education course in arts and letters	4
	General-education course in social science that also satisfies multicultural requirement	4
Credits		19

Winter

CH 401	Research: [Topic]	2
	400-level course in chemistry, earth sciences, or physics	4
	Second term of second-year second-language sequence (BA only)	5
	General-education course in arts and letters	4
	General-education course in social science that also satisfies multicultural requirement	4
Credits		19

Spring

CH 401	Research: [Topic]	2
CH 429	Instrumental Analysis	5
	400-level course in chemistry, earth sciences, or physics	4
	Third term of second-year second-language sequence (BA only)	5
	General-education course in arts and letters	4
Credits		20
Total Credits		58

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
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First Year**Fall**

MATH 112Z or MATH 251	Precalculus II: Trigonometry or Calculus I	4
WR 121Z	Composition I	4
CH 221 or CH 224H	General Chemistry I or Advanced General Chemistry I	4
CH 227	General Chemistry Laboratory	2
Credits		14

Winter

WR 123 or WR 122Z	College Composition III or Composition II	4
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CH 222 or CH 225H	General Chemistry II or Advanced General Chemistry II	4
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CH 228	General Chemistry Laboratory	2
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MATH 251 or MATH 252	Calculus I or Calculus II	4
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Meet with an advisor to prepare a four-year plan

Credits **14**

Spring

CH 223 or CH 226H	General Chemistry III or Advanced General Chemistry III	4
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CH 229	General Chemistry Laboratory	2
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MATH 252 or MATH 253	Calculus II or Calculus III	4
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General-education course in arts and letters

Meet with an advisor if interested in undergraduate research.

All majors take the American Chemical Society Exam at the end of the academic year.

Credits **14**

Total Credits **42**

Course Title Credits Milestones

Second Year

Fall

PHYS 201 or PHYS 251	General Physics or Foundations of Physics I	4
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PHYS 204 or PHYS 290	Introductory Physics Laboratory or Foundations of Physics Laboratory	2
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CH 337	Organic Chemistry Laboratory	3
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CH 341	Majors Track Organic Chemistry I	4
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Students should meet with an advisor to create an individual development plan

Credits **13**

Winter

PHYS 202 or PHYS 252	General Physics or Foundations of Physics I	4
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PHYS 205 or PHYS 290	Introductory Physics Laboratory or Foundations of Physics Laboratory	2
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CH 342	Majors Track Organic Chemistry II	4
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CH 348	Organic Chemistry Laboratory for Majors	4
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Credits **14**

Spring

PHYS 203 or PHYS 253	General Physics or Foundations of Physics I	4
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PHYS 206 or PHYS 290	Introductory Physics Laboratory or Foundations of Physics Laboratory	2
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CH 343	Majors Track Organic Chemistry III	4
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CH 349	Organic Chemistry Lab for Majors	4
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General-education course in social science

Majors take the American Chemical Society Exam at the end of the academic year.

Students interested in undergraduate research should make arrangements to start.

Credits **18**

Total Credits **45**

Course Title Credits Milestones

Third Year

Fall

CH 411	Physical Chemistry	4
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CH 417	Physical Chemistry Laboratory	4
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MATH 256 or MATH 281	Introduction to Differential Equations or Several-Variable Calculus I	4
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General-education course in arts and letters

Students should meet with an advisor to review their four-year plan and individual development plan

Credits **16**

Winter

MATH 281	Several-Variable Calculus I	4
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CH 412	Physical Chemistry	4
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CH 418	Physical Chemistry Laboratory	4
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General-education course in social science

Credits **16**

Spring

CH 413	Physical Chemistry	4
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CH 419	Physical Chemistry Laboratory	4
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CH 429	Instrumental Analysis	5
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General-education course in social science

Credits **17**

Total Credits **49**

Course Title Credits Milestones

Fourth Year

Fall

CH 401	Research: [Topic]	2
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400-level course in chemistry, earth sciences, or physics

General-education course in arts and letters

General-education course that also satisfies multicultural requirement

Credits **14**

Winter

CH 401	Research: [Topic]	2
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400-level course in chemistry, earth sciences, or physics

General-education course that also satisfies multicultural requirement	4
General-education course in social science	4
Credits	14
Spring	
CH 401 Research: [Topic]	2
400-level course in chemistry, earth sciences, or physics	4
General-education course in arts and letters	4
Credits	10
Total Credits	38