INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Chemical Engineering major equips students for professional work in development, design, and operation of chemical processes and of process equipment, as well as preparing students for graduate study. The program incorporates both breadth requirements and a technical curriculum to ensure that students develop a foundation in engineering and science along with developing the skills to write clearly, persuasively, and read critically and effectively.

Students go on to careers of leadership and innovation in chemical engineering and related fields, and expand the base of engineering knowledge through original research and creating new technologies that can benefit the public. The program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET.

STUDY OPTIONS

Students can pursue a concentration in biotechnology, chemical processing, environmental technology, materials science and technology, applied physical science, and business and management.

Students can also choose to pursue a joint major with the College of Engineering in Materials Science or Nuclear Engineering, or a simultaneous degree in Business Administration through the Haas School of Business.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Apply to the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Scholars Program to be an Undergraduate Student Instructor.
- Join a ChemE student organization such as AICHE, Aurum Cosmetics, Biofuels Technology Club, or ChemE Car.
- Present your research at the College of Chemistry poster session in April.
- Apply to the CBE Innovation Incubator, a lab to conduct student-directed projects.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

CONNECT WITH US

Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit chemistry.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING

Staff advisors are located in 121 Gilman Hall and are available to assist with schedule planning, course enrollment, study abroad, and other academic matters.

Faculty mentors are available to talk with you about career planning, research, internships, graduate school, and many other questions related to becoming a scientist.

Visit chemistry.berkeley.edu/ugrad/current-students/advisers to find your staff advisor and faculty mentor, and to book an appointment.

CONNECT WITH US

Visit vcue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.

Chemical engineering allows you to craft elegant solutions to seemingly unsolvable problems—the program and faculty will transform you.

— Aditya Nandy, recent graduate
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
Bachelor of Science

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Jobs and Employers
Applications Engineer, KLA-Tencor
Associate Analyst, ZS Associates
Consultant, IBM Corp
Engineer, ExxonMobil
Lab Technician, Full Cycle Bioplastics
Process Engineer, Aaxis
R&D Process Engineer, PLANTPV
Research Assistant, Zymergen

Graduate Programs
BioPhysics, PhD
Chemical Engineering, PhD
Materials Engineering, PhD
Physical & Theoretical Chem, PhD

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Explore your major
Meet with your staff advisor to discuss your academic plans.
Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
Learn about undergraduate student services from the college.
Talk to peer advisors about life in the major.

Connect and build community
Visit peer tutors in Bixby Commons for help with chemistry, math, physics, and other classes.
Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
Get help from peer advisors in 121 Gilman Hall.
Join the College of Chemistry group on LinkedIn.

Discover your passions
Talk to your faculty mentor about research, internships, careers, and graduate school.
Explore research opportunities in ChemE.
Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course.

Engage locally and globally
Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.

Reflect and plan your future
Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
Learn about chemical engineering as a profession and explore career resources on the College of Chemistry website.

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

THIRD YEAR

FOURTH YEAR

Focus on upper division requirements.
Review your degree progress with your staff advisor.
Declare a concentration to give more focus to your upper division coursework.
Ask the staff advisor about the college honors programs.

Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
Complete any "bucket list" courses and finish remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
Complement your major with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.

Learn about undergraduate student services.
Familiarize yourself with college staff advisor to discuss your upper division courses.
Review the college guidelines for study abroad.

Meet with your staff advisor to discuss your career options and goals.
Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter externship.
Learn about graduate and professional school.

Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program.
Study and intern in Washington D.C. with UCDC or Cal in the Capital.

Conduct informational interviews.
Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors.
Attend career and graduate school fairs such as the STEM Career & Internship Fair.
Join industry information sessions hosted by the CBE Department or affiliated clubs.

Utilize job search tools from the Career Center.
Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.
Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting.
Apply to jobs, graduate school, and other opportunities.

Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
Learn about chemical engineering as a profession and explore career resources on the College of Chemistry website.

Meet with a career counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter externship.
Learn about graduate and professional school. See Step-by-Step for planning help.
Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.

Connect with alumni groups and build your network as you prepare to graduate.
Join a professional organization related to your interests, such as Alpha Chi Sigma.
Welcome new students to UC Berkeley as a Golden Bear Orientation Leader.
Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.

Give back by becoming a peer advisor or peer tutor in the college.
Welcome new students to UC Berkeley as a Golden Bear Orientation Leader.
Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.

Conduct informational interviews.
Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors.
Attend career and graduate school fairs such as the STEM Career & Internship Fair.
Join industry information sessions hosted by the CBE Department or affiliated clubs.

Utilize job search tools from the Career Center.
Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.
Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting.
Apply to jobs, graduate school, and other opportunities.

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

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