INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

UC Berkeley offers two bachelors’ degrees in Chemistry: a Bachelor of Science (BS) through the College of Chemistry and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) through the College of Letters and Science. The College of Chemistry also offers a BS degree in Chemical Biology.

Students in both BS programs develop a strong foundation in experimental processes, instrumentation, and quantitative analysis; acquire a strong foundation in math and physics; and may also choose to pursue the Materials Chemistry concentration.

The BA program includes a greater number of humanities and social science courses than the BS degrees. Students who wish to pursue the BA degree should apply for admission to the College of Letters & Science.

WHICH DEGREE IS RIGHT FOR ME?

The Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees in Chemistry and Chemical Biology are intended for students who are primarily interested in careers as professional chemists or wish a thorough grounding in chemistry in preparation for professional or graduate school in chemistry and related disciplines.

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Chemistry is intended for students interested in careers in teaching, medicine, or other sciences in which a basic understanding of chemical processes is necessary. Students interested in subsequent graduate studies in chemistry will receive a better preparation by pursuing the BS in Chemistry.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Apply to the Chemistry Scholars Program to be an Undergraduate Student Instructor.
- Apply to the CBE Innovation Incubator, a lab to conduct student-directed projects.
- Join Alpha Chi Sigma and connect with peers, attend tutoring sessions, and outreach with local primary schools.

Having the opportunity to study chemistry at Cal is a wonderful educational experience....I am surrounded by a community of talented professors and classmates who really challenge you to think critically about today’s scientific problems.

– Jesus Aguilar
### CHEMISTRY | CHEMICAL BIOLOGY

**Bachelor of Science | Arts**

#### DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

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<th>FIRST YEAR</th>
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| **Explore your major**<br>Meet with your **staff advisor** to discuss your academic plans.  
Familiarize yourself with **major and college requirements**.  
Browse undergraduate student services in the college.  
Talk to **peer advisors** about life in the major. | **SECOND YEAR**<br>Complete lower division prerequisites and start planning your upper division courses.  
Review the college guidelines for **study abroad**. | **THIRD YEAR**<br>Focus on upper division requirements.  
Review your degree progress with your **staff advisor**.  
For the Chemistry BS, consider adding a concentration.  
Ask the staff advisor about the **college honors programs**. | **FOURTH YEAR**<br>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**. |
| **Connect and build community**<br>Join a College of Chemistry **student organization**  
Visit peer tutors in **Bixby Commons** for help with chemistry, math, and physics.  
Get help from **peer advisors** in 121 Gilman Hall.  
Join the **College of Chemistry** group on LinkedIn. | **SECOND YEAR**<br>Join a professional organization related to your interests, such as **Alpha Chi Sigma**.  
Explore the college’s **centers & institutes**.  
Attend college **seminars and events** to learn about new research and meet guest speakers.  
Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours. | **THIRD YEAR**<br>Become a **peer advisor or tutor** in the college.  
Welcome new students to UC Berkeley as a **Golden Bear Orientation Leader**.  
Apply to the **Chemistry Undergraduate Teacher Scholar Program** to become an apprentice instructor and mentor. | **FOURTH YEAR**<br>Apply to be a **Chem Scholar discussion leader**.  
Connect with **alumni groups** and build your network as you prepare to graduate.  
Join a professional association such as the **American Association for Clinical Chemistry** or **American Chemical Society**. |
| **Discover your passions**<br>Talk to a faculty member about research, internships, careers, and graduate school.  
Browse the **faculty research taking place in the college**.  
Explore research opportunities in Chemistry.  
Discover new interests in a **Freshman Seminar** or student-run **DeCal course**. | **SECOND YEAR**<br>Join a **faculty research group**.  
Attend the **Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Fair in October**.  
Apply to a **REU undergraduate research program** Check Berkeley Lab and UCSC for more options.  
Explore a career in education with **CalTeach**. | **THIRD YEAR**<br>Apply to be an **Undergraduate Student Instructor with the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Scholars Program**.  
Join a faculty research group if you haven’t already.  
Present your research at the **College of Chemistry poster session in April**. | **FOURTH YEAR**<br>Apply for a **Conference Travel Grant**  
Teach your own **DeCal course**.  
Keep pursuing your interests through a **fellowship or gap year** after graduation.  
Present your research at the College of Chemistry poster session if you haven’t already. |
| **Engage locally and globally**<br>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**. | **SECOND YEAR**<br>Work with a community organization in an **American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course**.  
Go on a service-learning trip with the **Alternative Breaks Program**.  
Consider a Berkeley **Global Internship** in the United States or abroad. | **THIRD YEAR**<br>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**.  
Bring STEM-themed programming to local schools through **BEAM**.  
Join **BASIS** and present science in K-8 schools. | **FOURTH YEAR**<br>Hone your leadership skills with the **Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program**.  
Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as **Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State**. |
| **Reflect and plan your future**<br>Visit the **Career Center** and **Career Counseling Library**  
Check out the **Career Center Yearly Planner**  
Sign up for **Handshake** and **CareerMail**  
Read about chemistry as a profession and explore career resources on the **College of Chemistry website**. | **SECOND YEAR**<br>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. | **THIRD YEAR**<br>Conduct **informational interviews**  
Discuss graduate school options with advisors and professors.  
Update your resume and **LinkedIn** profile.  
Attend career and graduate school fairs such as the STEM Career & Internship Fair. | **FOURTH YEAR**<br>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. |

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### WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

**Jobs and Employers**

- Analyst, BlackRock
- Analytical Operations, Genentech
- Associate, D.E. Shaw Research
- Chemist, Argonne National Lab
- Research Assoc., Latitute Pharm
- Chemist, Metal Surfaces Inc.
- Lab Technician, Quest Diagnostics
- Synthetic Chemist Intern, US DOE
- Research Technician, Univ. of Chicago
- Scientist, Logichk Corporation

**Graduate Programs**

- Analytical Chemistry, PhD
- Atmospheric Sciences, PhD
- Biochemistry, PhD
- Biophysics, PhD
- Chemical Physics, PhD
- Chemistry, PhD
- Inorganic Chemistry, PhD
- Law, JD
- Legal Studies, Masters
- Materials Science, PhD
- Medicine, DDS, MD
- Neurobiology and Neurophysics, PhD
- Nursing, Masters
- Organic Chemistry, PhD
- Pharmacology, PhD
- Pharmacy, PharmD
- Physical & Theoretical Chem, PhD
- Toxicology, PhD

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

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