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