What Can I Do With a Major in…?
Chemistry

OVERVIEW

Approximately 100,000 chemists currently work in the U.S. The majority of these chemists are employed in manufacturing firms—mostly in the chemical manufacturing industry, which includes firms that produce plastics and synthetic materials, drugs, soaps and cleaners, paints, industrial organic chemicals, and other miscellaneous chemical products. Chemists also work for State and local governments, primarily in health and agriculture, and for Federal agencies, chiefly in the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture. Others work for research and testing services, and educational institutions.

The following list is a representative sample of job titles of former graduates with a chemistry major. Use this as an idea list, and remember that it represents some, but certainly not all, of the careers you might consider. Some of these jobs also require education beyond a bachelors’ degree.

RELATED CAREERS

Agricultural Scientist
Anesthesiologist
Assayer
Biochemist
Brewer Lab Assistant
Cepalometric Analyst
Chemist
Chemical Engineer
Chemical Oceanographer
Chemistry Professor
Chemistry Technologist
Clarifying Plant Operator
Computer Software Engineer
Cooperative Extension Agent
Crime Lab Analyst
Creative Perfumer
College Professor
Color Development Chemist
Controls Manager
Cytotechnologist
Dentist
Entomologist
Environmental Engineer
Environmental Health Specialist
EPA Inspector
FDA Inspector
Fire Protection Engineer
Food Scientist Technician
Forensic Chemist
Genetic Counselor
Genomics
Geochemist
Health Informatics Specialist
Health Information Management
Health Information Engineer
Health Information Policy
High School Teacher
Hospital Administrator
Hydrologist
Industrial/Institutional Buyer
Industrial Hygienist
Laboratory Head
Lawyer
Medical Technologist
Metallurgist
Molecular Biologist
Microbiologist
Museum Curator
Nurse/Nurse Anesthetist
Oceanographer
Occupational Health Specialist
Occupational Safety Specialist
Optometrist
Patent Agent
Perfumer
Pharmacist
Pharmaceutical Sales Representative
Physician
Planner
Plastics Engineer
Product Development Manager
Product Tester
Psychiatrist
Quality Assurance Manager
Radiologist
Reporter/Writer
Risk Manager
Science Lab Technician
Scientific Photographer
Soil Scientist
Specification Writer
Systems Analyst
Tissue Technologist
Toxicologist
Underwater Technician
Vector Control Assistant
Veterinarian
Wastewater Treatment Chemist
Water Purification Chemist
Water Scientist
Yeast Culture Developer
**MAJOR SKILLS**

- Developing Theories
- Conduct Research
- Attending to Data
- Curiosity
- Utilizing Formulae
- Process Data
- Work Independently and in Groups
- Oral and Written Communication
- Science and Math Ability
- Perseverance
- Analytical Skills
- Follow-through skills
- Perform Experiments
- Observation and Decision Making
- Technological Skills
- Remain Objective

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**RELATED WEB SITES**

**Job Listings:**
- MonsterTRAK [http://www.monstertrak.com](http://www.monstertrak.com)
- The American Society of Forensic Sciences [www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org)
- ChemJobs.net [www.chemjobs.net](http://www.chemjobs.net)
- Biotechnology jobs and information [www.bioview.co.il](http://www.bioview.co.il)
- chemistry jobs [www.chemistryjobs.com](http://www.chemistryjobs.com)
- Nature jobs [www.nature.com/naturejobs](http://www.nature.com/naturejobs)
- Chemistry job search site [www.sciencejobs.com](http://www.sciencejobs.com)
- JobSpectrum from the American Chemical Society [www.cen-chemjobs.org](http://www.cen-chemjobs.org)
- Chem Web: searchable database and publications for students [http://chemweb.com/jobs](http://chemweb.com/jobs)

**Professional Organizations**

- American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology [http://asbmb.org](http://asbmb.org)
- American Institute of Chemical Engineers [http://www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org)
- American Association for Clinical Chemistry [http://www.aacc.org](http://www.aacc.org)
- American Chemical Society [http://www.chemistry.org/](http://www.chemistry.org/)
- RSC's Chemical Science Network [www.chemsoc.org](http://www.chemsoc.org)
- American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors [http://www.ascld.org](http://www.ascld.org)
- Chemical & Engineering New Online [http://pubs.acs.org/cen/index.html](http://pubs.acs.org/cen/index.html)