University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Chemistry

Curriculum Guide for Chemistry Majors 2023 – 2024

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Considering a major in Chemistry?

Join our prospective chemistry majors email list! https://chem.wisc.edu/undergr aduate-education/

To schedule an advising appointment with the chemistry major advisor, visit the Starfish app in MyUW or go to:

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CHEM.WISC.EDU

Undergraduate Chemistry Office

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REQUIRED CHEMISTRY COURSES FOR THE CHEMISTRY MAJOR

(37 credits)

A. General Chemistry

CHEM 109 Advanced General Chemistry (5 cr; fall only) Choose one from:

CHEM 109H Advanced General Chemistry Honors (5 cr; fall only)

CHEM 115 Chemical Principles I (5 cr; fall only; enrollment by invitation)

CHEM 104 (5 cr) (CHEM 103 is a prerequisite.)

CHEM 109, 109H, or 115 is recommended, but CHEM 103/104 also fulfills this requirement.

B. Analytical Chemistry¹

CHEM 329 Fundamentals of Analytical Science (4 cr; fall or spring)

OR CHEM 116 Chemical Principles II (5 cr; spring only; only open to students who took CHEM 115)

C. Inorganic Chemistry

CHEM 311 Chemistry Across the Periodic Table (4 cr; fall or spring)

D. Organic Chemistry (All courses offered fall, spring, and summer.)

CHEM 343 Organic Chemistry I (3 cr)

CHEM 344 Introductory Organic Chemistry Laboratory (2 cr)

CHEM 345 Organic Chemistry II (3 cr)

E. Physical Chemistry (All courses offered fall and spring; labs also offered summer.)

CHEM 561 Physical Chemistry I (3 cr) or CHEM 565 Biophysical Chemistry (4 cr)²

CHEM 562 Physical Chemistry II (3 cr)

CHEM 563 Physical Chemistry Laboratory I (1 cr)

CHEM 564 Physical Chemistry Laboratory II (1 cr)

F. Advanced Non-Laboratory Coursework (5 cr) Choose from any 500-600 level courses in chemistry that are not research courses. Options include:

CHEM 421/MS&E 421 Polymeric Materials (3 cr; fall only)

CHEM 505/CBE 505 Industrial Chemistry (3 cr)

CHEM 511 Inorganic Chemistry (3 cr; spring only)

CHEM 524 Chemical Instrumentation (3 cr; only 2 cr

count for advanced non-lab work; spring only)

CHEM 547 Advanced Organic Chemistry (3 cr; fall only)

CHEM 629 Atmospheric Chemical Mechanisms (3 cr;

every other fall)

CBE 440 Chemical Engineering Materials (3 cr)

CBE 540 Polymer Science & Technology (3 cr)

CBE 547 Introduction to Collide & Interface Science (3 cr)

BIOCHEM 501 Introduction to Biochemistry (3 cr) or BIOCHEM 507 General Biochem I (3 cr)

BIOCHEM 508 General Biochemistry II (3 cr)

BIOCHEM/NUTR SCI 510 Nutritional Biochemistry &

Metabolism (3 cr.; spring only)

BIOCHEM 625 Mechanisms of Action of Vitamins &

Minerals (2 cr.; spring only)

The extra one credit associated with CHEM 116 and CHEM 565

also count towards the 5 credits.

BIOCHEM 501 and BIOCHEM 507 cannot both count towards

the 5 credits.

G. Additional Laboratory Work (3 cr) Choose from the following lab courses:

CHEM 346 Intermediate Organic Laboratory

(1-2 cr; fall only)

CHEM 512 Advanced Synthesis and Laboratory

Techniques (1-2 cr; spring only) CHEM 524 Chemical Instrumentation

(3 cr; only 1 cr counts for lab work; spring only)

CHEM 681/682 Senior Honors Thesis

CHEM 691/692 Senior Thesis

CHEM 699 Directed Study

BIOCHEM 681/682 Senior Honors Thesis

BIOCHEM 691/692 Senior Thesis

BIOCHEM 699 Special Problems

CBE 599 Special Problems

Note that students need to first find a research advisor before enrolling in one of the directed study or thesis

courses.

2 Rev. 12/18/2023

¹ Students are strongly encouraged to take either CHEM 329 or CHEM 116 (if invited) to fulfill the Analytical Chemistry requirement. However, CHEM 327 may be substituted for this requirement.

² CBE 310 Chemical Process Thermodynamics or MS&E 330 Thermodynamics of Materials may be substituted for this requirement. These options are only recommended for students who are also majoring CBE or MS&E.

MATH AND PHYSICS REQUIREMENTS

Calculus and calculus-based physics classes are also required for the chemistry major.

Mathematics

MATH 221 Calculus and Analytic Geometry 1 (5 cr) MATH 222 Calculus and Analytic Geometry 2 (4 cr)

MATH 234 Calculus-Functions of Several Variables (4 cr) and MATH 320 Linear Algebra and Differential Equations (3 cr) are also highly recommended, although they are not required. Students with MATH 221 and 222 credit from AP Calculus are especially encouraged to take further math.

Physics

PHYS 207 General Physics or PHYS 201 General Physics or PHYS 247 A Modern Introduction to Physics PHYS 208 General Physics or PHYS 202 General Physics or PHYS 248 A Modern Introduction to Physics

PHYS 207/208 is the preferred sequence for chemistry majors, while PHYS 201/202 is recommended for engineering students. PHYS 247/248 is an honors sequence that may be taken by chemistry majors as well.

COURSE SELECTION AND SEQUENCING

Introductory Chemistry Courses

Students intending to major in chemistry should take general chemistry in their first year. There are three different options for introductory chemistry, and the best choice depends on the student's background. Students with one year of high school chemistry often take the CHEM 103 General Chemistry I/CHEM 104 General Chemistry II sequence. Students with a strong high school chemistry background (usually two years) and placement into at least first semester calculus are eligible for CHEM 109 Advanced General Chemistry, an advanced, fast-paced option that covers the breadth of general chemistry in one semester. CHEM 109 is offered only in the fall semesters and an honors level section is available. Students with exceptionally strong math and science backgrounds may be invited to apply for the CHEM 115 Chemical Principles I/CHEM 116 Chemical Principles II sequence. This honors sequence is more math and physics based than the other options, features a small class size, and provides an opportunity for research during the second semester. The 115/116 sequence satisfies both the general and analytical chemistry requirements for the major.

Mathematics and Physics

Most chemistry majors complete calculus during their first year. Physics is most often taken in the second year. Students interested in chemistry with a biological emphasis will usually take biology in their second year and then take physics and biochemistry in their third year.

Intermediate Level Chemistry Courses

Chemistry majors take intermediate level courses in three different areas of chemistry: analytical (CHEM 329), inorganic (CHEM 311), and organic (CHEM 343, CHEM 345, and CHEM 344). These areas are independent from one another and do not need to be taken in a particular order. Below are some points for students to consider when making their selections.

- It is recommended that students complete the required 300-level courses by the end of their third year.
- Opportunities for taking advanced electives or for doing research in one area may be enhanced somewhat by an earlier start in that area.

- Students are strongly encouraged to take the laboratory courses CHEM 311, CHEM 329, and CHEM 344 in three different semesters. In particular, CHEM 329 and CHEM 344 are especially challenging to take in the same semester, because they both include eight hours of laboratory time per week.
- CHEM 344 Introductory Organic Chemistry Laboratory may be taken concurrently with or after CHEM 345 Organic Chemistry II. Some students prefer to take the two concurrently because the content of these courses complement each other well. Others prefer to take 344 after 345 so that they have more time to process and assimilate the material.
- An honors sequence for students especially interested in the chemical sciences is offered in organic chemistry, CHEM 343 (fall only) and CHEM 345 (spring only). Enrollment is by invitation and based on grades in prior chemistry coursework.
- Students desiring a more compressed schedule may opt to take either CHEM 311 or CHEM 329 (which
 include labs) concurrently with the non-laboratory courses CHEM 343 or CHEM 345 (if not also taking
 the organic lab).

Physical Chemistry

It is recommended that students begin physical chemistry by the second semester of their third year. Calculus, physics, and analytical chemistry are all prerequisites. Most chemistry majors take CHEM 561 Physical Chemistry for their first physical chemistry course. Students who are also interested in biochemistry usually take CHEM 565 Biophysical Chemistry instead. Chemistry majors who are also majoring in Chemical & Biological Engineering take CBE 310 Chemical Process Thermodynamics. It is recommended that CHEM 563 Physical Chemistry Laboratory be taken after CHEM 561 (usually concurrently with CHEM 562 Physical Chemistry), and that CHEM 564 Physical Chemistry Laboratory be taken after completion of CHEM 562. Especially strong students needing to complete physical chemistry in two semesters may take CHEM 563 concurrently with CHEM 561 (or 565) and CHEM 564 concurrently with CHEM 562.

Additional Laboratory Work Requirement and Research Involvement

The additional laboratory work requirement for the major can be satisfied through either research and/or additional course work. Either way, it is exceptionally difficult to complete this requirement in one semester, and students need to plan ahead. It is strongly encouraged that students who are interested in research begin looking for a research group by the end of their sophomore year and no later than the first semester of their junior year. Although it is possible to find a research group after this point, it is much more difficult. Should you not find a research group, this timeframe would also allow you time to plan accordingly for the required courses you would need in place of research. The non-research course options are CHEM 346, CHEM 512, and CHEM 524. At any point should you have questions regarding finding research or the courses you would need to take, please reach out to the Chemistry Advisor, Katie McCullough: klmccullough@wisc.edu or the Undergraduate Research Office: chem.ugr-research@chem.wisc.edu.

FOUR-YEAR PLANS FOR THE CHEMISTRY MAJOR

The next pages show a few possible course sequences for the chemistry courses required for the major. These pathways are all based on a four-year undergraduate degree. Those students who plan to take longer and/or take courses in the summer can decompress these schedules. Variations to these plans are possible, as long as the student pays attention to required requisites. In presenting these pathways we hope that students will have enough information to tailor course sequences to best achieve their educational objectives.

Pathway 1 - Starting with CHEM 109

Pathway 1 has students completing general chemistry (CHEM 109) their first semester and beginning the intermediate level courses the second semester of their first year. In an alternative version of this plan, students could start the organic sequence (CHEM 343) the second semester of their first year and postpone analytical (CHEM 329) to the second semester of their second year.

	Fall Semester	Cr	Spring Semester	Cr
Year 1	CHEM 109	5	CHEM 329	4
	MATH 221	5	MATH 222	4
Year 2	CHEM 343	3	CHEM 345	3
	PHYSICS 207	5	CHEM 344 (or summer)	2
	Research (optional)	1-3	PHYSICS 208	5
			Research (optional)	1-3
Year 3	CHEM 311	4	CHEM 562	3
	CHEM 561	3	CHEM 563	1
	Research (optional)	1-3	Research or Additional	1-3
			lab credits	
Year 4	CHEM 564	1	CHEM Elective (non-lab)	3
	CHEM Elective (non-lab)	3	Research (optional)	1-3
	Research or Additional	1-3		
	lab credits			

Pathway 2 - Starting with CHEM 103/104

Pathway 2 includes completing general chemistry (CHEM 103 and 104) and the required math courses the first year and beginning the intermediate courses the second year. A variation of this plan could be to take CHEM 329 in the fall of the second year and start organic chemistry in the spring of the second year.

	Fall Semester	Cr	Spring Semester	Cr
Year 1	CHEM 103	4	CHEM 104	5
	MATH 221	5	MATH 222	4
Year 2	CHEM 343	3	CHEM 345	3
	PHYSICS 207	5	CHEM 344 (or summer)	2
	Research (optional)	1-3	PHYSICS 208	5
			Research (optional)	1-3
Year 3	CHEM 329	4	CHEM 311	4
	CHEM Elective (non-lab)	3	CHEM 561	3
	Research (optional)	1-3	Research or Additional	1-3
			lab credits	
Year 4	CHEM 562	3	CHEM 564	1
	CHEM 563	1	CHEM Elective (non-lab)	3
	Research or Additional	1-3		
	lab credits			

Pathway 3 – Students Pursuing Careers in Chemistry with Biological Emphasis

Pathway 3 provides options for students interested in fields with a biological emphasis, such as chemical biology, biochemistry, or pharmacy. Some students might find the second-year of the plan below to be especially challenging. One variation would be to postpone CHEM 329 until the fall of the third year and move CHEM 311 to spring of the third year. Additionally, one or two of the organic courses could be taken during a summer term.

	Fall Semester	Cr	Spring Semester	Cr
Year 1	CHEM 103	4	CHEM 104	5
	MATH 221	5	MATH 222	4
Year 2	CHEM 329	4	CHEM 345 3	
	CHEM 343	3	CHEM 344 (or summer)	2
	BIO 151	5	BIO 152	5
Year 3	CHEM 311	4	PHYSICS 208	5
	BIOCHEM 507	3	BIOCHEM 508	3
	PHYSICS 207	5	Research or Additional	1-3
			lab credits	
Year 4	CHEM 565	4	CHEM 562	3
	CHEM 563	1	CHEM 564	1
	Research or Additional	1-3	Research (optional)	1-3
	lab credits			

Pathway 4 – Students Planning to Study Abroad

It is definitely possible for chemistry majors to study abroad and still graduate in four years! Pathway 4 provides one possible route. It is sometime difficult to satisfy specific chemistry major requirements while abroad, because chemistry curriculum and sequencing at foreign institutions can differ significantly from ours. Chemistry majors who study abroad often focus on satisfying breadth and foreign language requirements while abroad. Advance planning is essential. Summer study abroad programs are also an option. Students interested in studying abroad should consult early with the International Programs Office (https://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/) and the chemistry advisor.

	Fall Semester	Cr	Spring Semester	Cr
Year 1	CHEM 103	4	CHEM 104	5
	MATH 221	5	MATH 222	4
Year 2	CHEM 329	4	CHEM 311 4	
	PHYSICS 207	5	CHEM 343	3
	Research (optional)	1-3	PHYSICS 208	5
			Research (optional)	1-3
Year 3	CHEM 345 (or summer)	3	Study Abroad	
	CHEM 344	2		
	Research (optional)	1-3		
Year 4	CHEM 561	3	CHEM 562	3
	CHEM 563 (or spring)	1	CHEM 564 (or summer)	1
	CHEM Elective (non-lab)	3	CHEM Elective (non-lab)	3
	Research or Additional	1-3	Research or Additional	1-3
	lab credits		lab credits	

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE B.A. and B.S. Degree Requirements, at a glance

Requirements efective for students matriculating to any postsecondary institution May 21, 2007 and later

TOOLS for Learning and Communication

University General Education Requirements

One Quantitative Reasoning A course (q)
One Quantitative Reasoning B course (r)
One Communication A course (b)

One 3+ credit Ethnic Studies course (e)

Mathematics

Bachelor of Arts

Met with GER Quantitative A & B (above)

Bachelor of Science

Two 3+credit courses at I/A level (MATH, COMP SCI, STAT) (Limit one each: COMP SCI, STAT)

Minimum Math Competency demonstrated by placement score or course is required for all students

Foreign Language

Bachelor of Arts

Fourth level of a language, or

Third level of a language and Second level of another language

Bachelor of Science
Third level of a language

BREADTH of Exploration in the Liberal Arts & Sciences

Humanities: 12 credits (L,H,X,Z)

6 credits Literature (L)

Social Science: 12 credits (S,W,Y,Z)

Natural Science: 12 credits (B,P,N,W,X,Y)

Bachelor of Arts

One 3+ credit Biological science course (B)
One 3+ credit Physical Science course (P)

Bachelor of Science

6 credits Physical Science (P) 6 credits Biological Science (B)

108 Liberal Arts & Sciences credits (C)

DEPTH of inquiry in the Liberal Arts & Sciences

Mastery of Intermediate/ Advanced Work: 60 credits (I,A,D)

Major: Declare at least one major (and complete all declared majors)

QUANTITY & QUALITY of Work

There are limits on credits for certain courses. Consult this Catalog and your DARS for more information

120 Total Credits

UW-Madison Experience

30 credits **in residence** overall 30 credits **in residence** after the 90th credit

15 upper-level credits **in residence** in each major 15 credits **on campus** in each major/Department

Minimum GPAs

2.0 in all courses at UW-Madison2.0 in I/A/D Level work at UW-Madison

2.0 in all major &major department courses2.0 in upper-level major &major courses

In all categories, requirements listed are minimums. Further study, especially in Breadth and Depth, is encouraged.

The Department of Chemistry highly encourages all students pursuing a chemistry degree to get involved in undergraduate research during their academic career. Not only do students have the opportunity to experience cutting-edge research, but undergraduate researchers also have the opportunity to apply what they have learned in class to 'real-life' situations, to work alongside world-class researchers, and to develop invaluable marketable skills that are hugely advantageous when applying to graduate programs, professional schools, and/or jobs in STEM fields.

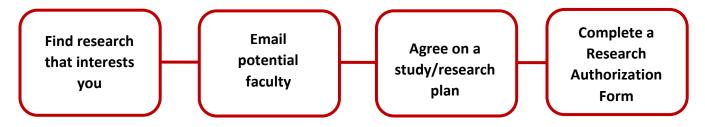
Types of Research Opportunities:

Conducting research for **course credit** is the most common option, but opportunities to conduct research for **pay** or as a **volunteer** during any semester, including summer, are also available. Regardless, you must first find a research advisor who will sponsor you to work in their lab for the semester and several blocks of time (at least **4**-**5** hours) are typically required each week to carry out your project. See the table below for course options within the chemistry department.

Course	Course Descriptions	Credits	Eligibility/Prerequisites
Chem 299	Independent mentored research	1-4	Open to freshmen/sophomores
Chem 699*	Advanced independent mentored research	1-6	Open to students who have completed 1 semester of research OR have junior/senior standing
Chem 681/682*	Advanced independent mentored research, required for a senior honors thesis	2-4 per semester, must total 6 credits between 681 and 682	Open to senior honors candidates; must take both semesters and complete a research thesis
Chem 691/692*	Advanced independent mentored research recommended for seniors majoring in chemistry	2-6 per semester, must total at least 4 credits between 691 and 692	Open to seniors; must take both semesters and complete a research thesis
Chem 260	Seminar course designed to help students begin independent research.	1 credit seminar course, offered Fall and Spring	Recommended to be taken concurrently with 1-3 research credits.

Note: 1 credit of research corresponds to 3-4 hours of lab work per week for 15 weeks.

Steps to Get Involved:



^{*} counts towards the 3 credits of additional lab work required for the completion of the chemistry major

CHEMISTRY HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Chemistry Major in consultation with the chemistry major advisor (https://chem.wisc.edu/undergraduate-advising/). To be admitted to the Honors Program in Chemistry, students must have declared a major in chemistry and achieved a 3.200 overall GPA. They must also have achieved a 3.200 GPA in all CHEM courses taken and courses accepted for the major.

Candidates for honors in the major should select a faculty research mentor by the fall semester of their junior year. Mentors may come either from chemistry or from a related department such as chemical engineering, pharmacology, or biochemistry. Students who choose a mentor from outside the chemistry department are responsible for providing the mentor with the requirements for the honors major in chemistry.

To earn Honors in the Major in Chemistry, students must satisfy both the requirements for the regular major and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 overall university GPA.
- Earn a 3.300 GPA for all CHEM courses and all courses accepted for the major.
- Complete an additional 3 credits, for a total 8 credits, of advanced non-laboratory work. This requirement is met by the same credits and courses that are accepted for "Advanced Non-laboratory Work" in the regular major. This requirement may also be met by:
 - Additional research credits, beyond any credits being used to satisfy the 3 additional laboratory credits required for the major; or
 - Additional breadth courses in other related disciplines
- Complete the two-semester sequence CHEM 681/682 Senior Honors Thesis for a total of 6 credits.
- Present their work to their peers in a symposium

Additional breadth courses for advanced work may come (for example) from engineering, physics, molecular biology, computer science, water chemistry, and business. Advanced level courses should be chosen in consultation with the student's research mentor. Courses required for the chemistry major cannot be used to simultaneously satisfy the advanced course requirement for honors in the major.

Several opportunities for students to present their work at a symposium are available near the end of the spring semester every year. These opportunities include the Chemistry Undergraduate Poster Session held every May, the campus-wide Undergraduate Symposium in April, and the L&S Senior Honors Thesis Symposium also in April.

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Through the generosity of alumni and other friends of the department, the Department of Chemistry is able to offer academic year scholarships and summer research support. In 2023, the Department awarded more than 40 scholarships totaling over \$191,000. Any student who is a chemistry major or is conducting research with a chemistry faculty member is eligible to apply for the scholarships. Awards are based on merit and financial need; both academic year scholarships ranging from \$1,500 to \$6,000 and/or summer research support of up to \$6,000 are available. More information about chemistry scholarships can be found at: https://chem.wisc.edu/scholarships-fellowships-awards/.

To learn about other scholarships offered at UW-Madison, visit https://wisc.academicworks.com/ and the Office of Student Financial Aid (http://finaid.wisc.edu/).

CAREER AND INTERNSHIP RESOURCES

As a student, it is important to work on your personal and professional development while here at UW-Madison. This will help prepare you for your next steps after graduation, and it is never too early to get started! Listed below are some campus resources available to you. In addition, we will notify you via email of additional opportunities. You can also visit our Career Opportunities page at: https://chem.wisc.edu/career-services/.

CAREER EXPLORATION CENTER (CEC)

The CEC is the leading campus resource for UW-Madison undergraduates who need help exploring majors and careers. They help students focus on their interests, values, strengths, and personality to give them the tools they need to make decisions about their careers and their futures.

Location and Contact Information

114 Ingraham Hall | Email: cec@ccas.wisc.edu | Phone: 608.265.4497 | Website: https://cec.ccas.wisc.edu/

SUCCESSWORKS AT THE COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

SuccessWorks is a personal and professional development center just for L&S students, helping you connect with the advisors, alumni, and employers who can help you land the jobs and internships you're looking for! Whether you're a first-year student or a senior, you can receive help on resume writing, interview skills, internships, networking, and anything else you need to help you prepare for graduation. They also work with students on their graduate school application timelines.

Location and Contact Information

711 State Street, Suite 300 (3rd floor of the bookstore) | Email: SuccessWorks@ls.wisc.edu Phone: 608.262.3921 | Website: https://successworks.wisc.edu/

INTER-LS 210 – L&S CAREER DEVELOPMENT: TAKING INITIATIVE

The goal of this **one-credit course** is to give you the tools you need to be able to seek out knowledge and skills as you make future career and life decisions. Over the semester, you will produce an ePortfolio in which you will track your personal growth and progress, demonstrate your ability to apply these theories, and produce job tools that you can build upon in the future, such as an internship/job application, skills assessment, and interview of a professional.

INTER-LS 215 – COMMUNICATING ABOUT CAREERS

This **three-credit course** explores the meaning and value of a liberal arts and sciences education for careers in the global, technological, and multicultural workplace of the 21st century. Through a series of individual and collaborative research and communication assignments, learn to critically analyze the career and education implications of a diverse and digital workplace, and to critically reflect on strengths and values to prepare to connect college work with lifelong career success. **This course also fulfills the COMM B requirement.**

HANDSHAKE

Handshake (https://careers.wisc.edu/handshake/) is UW-Madison's primary recruitment and career event management tool. Students can use Handshake to explore career events, apply for jobs and internships, connect with potential employers, and mange campus interviews.

CHEMISTRY MAJOR CHECKLIST

We encourage you to complete this checklist before you graduate! Your time as a student will go quickly, so we want to make sure that you are taking advantage of all the great opportunities UW-Madison has to offer!

Please note that what is listed below are suggestions, not requirements for the chemistry major.









DEVELOP A RESUME AND COVER LETTER

internships, and other experiences that can be

Attend the Career & Internship Fair in the fall and spring, enroll in Inter-LS 210 or 215, visit SuccessWorks and the Career

time as a student in this great city!