



SUMMARY

The College of Chemistry is comprised of the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Both disciplines provide the opportunity and means for meeting major scientific and technological challenges, such as climate change, world food supply, and the synthesis of new materials and drugs. The college prides itself on a balanced approach to science, with research areas ranging from experimental to theoretical. Faculty in both departments are engaged in teaching and research in a wide range of disciplines.

The College of Chemistry offers undergraduate degrees in chemistry, chemical biology, and chemical engineering, as well as double majors in chemical engineering and materials science and engineering, and in chemical engineering and nuclear engineering. A new option is a concentration in materials chemistry.

FACTS

College faculty and alumni have been awarded 13 Nobel Prizes in Chemistry.

According to US News & World Report, the College of Chemistry is at the top of its class. The 2014 rankings placed the College of Chemistry in first place, tied with Caltech and MIT, followed by Harvard and Stanford.

The college complex is a small city unto itself — six buildings that operate 24 hours a day.

LOWER DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

Chemistry: General chemistry and quantitative analysis in a two-semester series, followed by a two-semester series of organic chemistry in sophomore year.

Mathematics: Single-variable calculus, sequences and series, multivariable calculus, linear algebra, and differential equations.

Physics: Mechanics, thermodynamics, and electricity and magnetism. This two-semester program starts in the second semester of the freshman year.

Reading and Composition: R1A and R1B

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS & CLUBS

- American Chemical Society
- American Institute of Chemical Engineers
- Alpha Chi Sigma (professional fraternity)
- Berkeley Engineers and Mentors (BEAM)
- Black Engineering and Science Students Association (BESSA)
- Pilipino Association of Scientists, Architects, and Engineers (PASAE)
- Society of Women Engineers
- Hispanic Engineers and Scientists (HES)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the degree programs offered?

[The Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry](#) is 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 Science Degree in Chemical Engineering](#) is intended as preparation for a career in chemical engineering and related disciplines. It contains a broad range of interdisciplinary options in such areas as biotechnology, chemical processing, applied physical science, environmental technology, and materials science and technology.

[The Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Biology](#) is similar to the B.S. Degree in Chemistry. It is intended for students who are interested in a range of careers including research in the biological sciences, medicine, pharmacology, and bioengineering.

Should I pursue a BS or BA in Chemistry?

The Bachelor of Science Degree and is intended for those 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 B.S. in Chemistry. Students who want the B.A. degree apply for admission to the College of Letters and Science.

What are some other career paths?

You can prepare for medical, dental, or pharmacy school with a major in the College of Chemistry. Generally, medical schools do not favor any particular undergraduate major. See the UC Berkeley [Career Center](#) Web site for more information.

Is the College of Chemistry Right for You?

If you're not sure what you want to study, you may prefer to apply to the College of Letters and Science, where you'll have time to explore several different areas before declaring a major. If you're ready to commit to a course of study in the chemical sciences, the College of Chemistry is a good choice. We are a small, collegial college within a large cosmopolitan university. Our 800 undergrads have access to a broad array of research facilities and other resources, including a strong support staff.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

chemistry.berkeley.edu
chemistry.berkeley.edu/student_info/undergrad_info/prospective_undergrad/index.php
chemistry.berkeley.edu/student_info/undergrad_info/degree_programs/index.php
chemistry.berkeley.edu/links/