

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... CHEMISTRY

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

Conduct qualitative and quantitative chemical analyses or chemical experiments in laboratories for quality or process control or to develop new products or knowledge.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

[Considerable Job Preparation Needed]

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required. However, many employers also require graduate school. For example, they may require a master's degree, and some require a Ph.D., M.D., or J.D. (law degree).

EMPLOYERS & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:

Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Analytical: Colleges and universities - Environmental protection organizations - Federal agencies including National Aeronautics and Space Administration - Federal, state, and local government - Industrial production and inspection agencies - Manufacturing firms including textile, petroleum, food, electronics, glass, paper, packaging, machinery, cosmetics, paint, drug, and chemical industries - Research laboratories and organizations

Suggested Strategy: Familiarize yourself with federal, state, and local government job application processes. Gain experience in a laboratory setting. Develop proficiency with high-tech scientific equipment. Take electives in your area of interest.

Organic: Colleges and universities - Federal/state government - Industries related to petroleum, wood products, plastics, textiles, and food - Manufacturing firms developing new synthetic materials and new production processes - Research organizations

Suggested Strategy: Gain additional laboratory and research experience through internships and summer jobs. Get involved with undergraduate research with professors.

Biochemical: Biotechnology firms - Colleges and universities - Environmental protection organizations - Federal, state and local government, such as the Centers for Disease Control - Food processors - Industrial production and inspection agencies - Pharmaceutical and medical research firms - Plant and animal breeders and growers - Research laboratories and organizations

Suggested Strategy: Take additional courses in biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, cytology, and physiology. Develop excellent laboratory and computer skills. Get involved with undergraduate research with professors. Join related professional organizations. Complete a related internship with an organization in the area of your interest.

Other Areas: Agricultural product companies - Drug stores - Environmental management organizations - Industries including textiles, petroleum, food, electronics, glass, paper, packaging, machinery, cosmetics, paint, drugs, and chemicals - Manufacturing firms - Medical/Pharmaceutical supply companies - Waste management firms

Suggested Strategy: Obtain a minor in business and develop strong verbal and written communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills. Hold leadership positions in campus organizations. Join related student organizations, e.g., American Marketing Association, Financial Management Association, Public Relations Student Society of America, etc.

STATE & NATIONAL WAGES (2006) FOR CHEMISTS:

	10 %	25 %	Median	75 %	90 %
New Mexico	\$ 28,600	\$ 35,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 87,500	\$ 116,700
United States	\$ 35,500	\$ 44,800	\$ 59,900	\$ 82,600	\$ 106,300

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

American Chemical Society
American Academy of Forensic Sciences
Science Careers
Sloan Career Cornerstone Center
Professional Science Masters
National Science Foundation
National Institutes of Health
U.S. Department of Energy
PhD's.org
Science Jobs
Biospace.com
UNM Department of Chemistry website

<http://www.acs.org>
<http://www.aafs.org/>
<http://recruit.sciencemag.org/>
<http://www.careercornerstone.org/>
<http://www.sciencemasters.com/>
<http://www.nsf.gov/>
<http://www.nih.gov/>
<http://www.energy.gov/>
<http://www.phds.org/>
<http://www.scijobs.org/>
<http://www.biospace.com/Default.aspx>
<http://chemistry.unm.edu/index.html>

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:



<http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>