

MAJOR TO CAREER GUIDE

B.A. Chemistry

College of Sciences

Mission of the College of Sciences

The College of Sciences offers programs in life sciences, chemistry, geoscience, mathematical sciences, physics and astronomy, and water management. The college has created a well-rounded curriculum by combining practical and empirical knowledge with scientific fundamentals and principles, which provides a solid foundation for a successful career in the sciences and other professional programs. The student-faculty relationship, hands-on research, and community service help ensure that students who graduate are prepared for whatever path they choose.

www.unlv.edu/sciences

About the Chemistry Career

Chemists are the people who transform the everyday materials around us into amazing things. Some chemists work on cures for cancer while others monitor the ozone protecting us from the sun. Still others discover new materials to make our homes warmer in the winter, or new textiles to be used in the latest fashions. The knowledge gained through the study of chemistry opens many career pathways, including analytical chemistry, chemical engineering, chemical technology, forensic chemistry, science writing and K-12 education.

Value of a Chemistry Major

Numerical ability, problem-solving, analytical skills, and written and oral communication – all are highly valued by potential employers. The practical skills you have developed from the lab will come in handy. In addition, you will have gained excellent teamwork and time-management skills from planning and carrying out experiments, plus expertise in IT, including processing data and using computer software models.

UNLV Academic Advising for Science Majors:

Academic Advisors who are eager to meet with students about their academic goals and to assist in constructing a plan for graduation. Advisors can also help students understand how their experiences at UNLV can lead to a career in their desired field.

College of Sciences Advising Center
Phone: 702-895-2077
Campus Location: MPE-A 130
www.unlv.edu/sciences/advising

Chemistry Career Options

- Medicine
- Law
- Engineering
- Management/Business
- Education
- Technical Writing
- Research

Professional and Student Organizations

Students are encouraged to get involved with these societies and groups early on! Visit getinvolved.unlv.edu for more information.

- Chemical Interactions (UNLV Chemistry Club)
- Neuroscience Journal Club (NJC)

Websites for professional chemistry organizations:

American Chemical Society (ACS),
www.acs.org

American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC), www.aac.org

International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) www.iupac.edu

National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), www.nsta.org

Advancing Science, Serving Society (AAAS)
www.aaas.org

Graduate Program: Chemistry M.S. and Ph.D.

Our graduate programs offer exceptional research opportunities for advanced training in a wide variety of chemistry related disciplines including Organic, Physical, Analytical, Computational, Materials, Biochemistry, and Chemical Education.

Affiliated Programs:

M.A. in Science Teaching; M.S. in Water Resources Management; Ph.D. in Radiochemistry

Helpful Career Information

Employers rate candidate soft skills/qualities in order of importance

- 1 Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
- 2 Ability to work in a team structure
- 3 Ability to make decisions and solve problems
- 4 Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work
- 5 Ability to obtain and process information
- 6 Ability to analyze quantitative data
- 7 Technical knowledge related to the job
- 8 Proficiency with computer software programs
- 9 Ability to create and/or edit written reports
- 10 Ability to sell or influence others

Source: Job Outlook 2013

Courtesy of the National Association of Colleges and Employers

Visit the Career Occupational Handbook to learn more about a specific occupation:

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

The OCH covers hundreds of occupations and describes: What They Do, Work Environment, How to Become One, Pay, and more. Each profile also includes BLS employment projections for the 2010–20 decade.

Career Exploration/Planning

FOCUS 2: UNLV's computerized assessment that profiles your interests, abilities, and values and helps you find a career that's right for you.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessment.html>

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI): Assessment designed to identify how you are energized, how you take in information, how you make decisions, and how you approach life.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentMBTI.html>

Strong Interest Inventory: Generates an in-depth assessment of your interests among a broad range of occupations, work and leisure activities, and educational subjects.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentStrong.html>

UNLV Career Services

Career Services encourages ALL UNLV students to take advantage of their services, which include:

- Assistance with developing a career plan and choosing a major
- Career counseling and guidance on building a RESUME
- Preparing for an interview, assistance with job searching and networking.

Phone: 702-895-3495

Campus Location: SSC-A 2nd Floor

<http://hire.unlv.edu/>

Internship Opportunities

UNLV's **Hire a Rebel** is a free, online recruiting system that helps students, alumni, and employers connect in a variety of ways.

Students can use **Hire a Rebel** to search for: job and internship listings, on-campus recruiting interviews, employer information sessions, resume book database, & dates for career fairs.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerLink.html>

MEDIAN SALARIES BY DISCIPLINE 2010-2012

Career	Salary Range	Median Salary
Associate Chemist	\$33,983 - \$64,776	\$46,600
Quality Control Chemist	\$33,013 - \$66,481	\$44,900
Process Development Chemist	\$38,222 - \$106,892	\$59,600
High School Teacher	\$30,700 - \$70,287	\$45,100

www.payscale.com

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