WHY MAJOR IN CHEMISTRY?

The chemistry major gives students the critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary to be successful in a wide variety of careers in the chemical industries (e.g., consumer and agricultural products, materials, energy, petroleum, paper, food, etc.), as well as environmental, pharmaceutical, and other health-related sciences. Students are also well-prepared for graduate-level work in chemistry, chemical physics, biochemistry, biophysics, materials chemistry, and other related fields. Students who excel in undergraduate chemistry coursework are often able to obtain funding for their graduate work through teaching or research assistantships and fellowships. Combined with a master's program in secondary education, the major qualifies the student to teach chemistry in secondary schools. Chemistry majors have also been successful in a variety of professional programs where they have studied medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, business, or law.

THE CHEMISTRY MAJOR CURRICULUM

The chemistry major curriculum provides students with a sound foundation in chemical principles along with significant opportunities to participate in scientific inquiry in a creative environment. Students majoring in chemistry gain knowledge, skills, and experiences that enable them to address real world chemical problems. These skills include the ability to solve problems, think critically, and act ethically. Coursework includes calculus and physics, as well as:

- General Chemistry (5-10 credits)
- Analytical Chemistry (4 credits)
- Inorganic Chemistry (4 credits)
- Organic Chemistry (8 credits)
- Physical Chemistry (8 credits)
- Additional non-laboratory elective work (5 credits)
- Additional laboratory elective work (3 credits)

THE COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

The Department of Chemistry is housed within the College of Letters & Science (L&S) at UW-Madison. Students graduating from L&S earn either a B.S. or a B.A. degree. The L&S curriculum provides a wide breadth of liberal arts coursework, giving students ample opportunity to explore new ideas and topics, while developing the skills needed to succeed in today's workplaces.

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As a chemistry major at UW-Madison, there are a number of resources, services, and student organizations available to you, including:

Chemistry Advising (https://chem.wisc.edu/undergraduate-advising/)
The Chemistry advisor provides advising for chemistry majors, prospective chemistry majors, and students with questions about chemistry transfer credits or chemistry course selection. Students also have access to a multitude of advisors across campus who assist with major and career exploration, as well as general academic advising (https://advising.wisc.edu/).

Undergraduate Research (https://undergradresearch.chem.wisc.edu/)
The Department of Chemistry highly encourages students pursuing a chemistry major to get involved in research. Research projects give students the opportunity to experience the most up-to-date research equipment and techniques, the opportunity to apply what they have learned in class to ‘real-life’ situations, and many invaluable marketable skills that become crucial when applying to graduate programs, industrial jobs, and/or professional schools.

Scholarship and Awards (https://chem.wisc.edu/scholarships-fellowships-awards/)
Through the generosity of alumni and other friends, the Department of Chemistry has funds available each year for scholarships and summer research support. In 2020, the Department awarded more than 40 scholarships totaling over $140,000. Any student majoring in Chemistry or conducting research with a Chemistry faculty member is eligible to apply for the scholarships. L&S and campus-wide scholarships are also available (https://wisc.academicworks.com/).

SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science (https://successworks.wisc.edu/)
SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science offers a wealth of career services, including advising about careers, internships, and job search strategies. They also assist with resumes and cover letter preparation. SuccessWorks helps to connect students with opportunities via Handshake (an online resource for students and employers), career and internship fairs, and employer visits to campus.

Alpha Chi Sigma (http://alphachisigmauw.com/)
Alpha Chi Sigma (AXΣ) is a national, co-ed, professional chemistry fraternity, founded at the UW-Madison in 1902. AXΣ has an active membership of ~ 40 students, graduates and undergraduates. They have two houses on campus, which house some of their members and serve as great places for chapter dinners, meetings, and social events. AXΣ members provide tutoring services two nights a week in the Chemistry building and strive for the advancement of chemistry by holding free chemistry demonstration shows, aiding both Boy and Girl Scouts in obtaining merit badges in chemistry, participating in outreach events at local elementary and middle schools, and selling lab notebooks and manuals at the beginning of each semester.

American Chemical Society (ACS) Student Chapter (https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/college/studentaffiliates.html)
The American Chemical Society (ACS) Student Chapter is an organization for undergraduates interested in learning more about science and networking within the campus’ scientific community. They hold events throughout the semester on various science-related topics, such as undergraduate-garied seminars on faculty research, science writing workshops, careers in chemistry, information sessions, and faculty-student luncheons.

NOBCChE (https://www.nobcche.org/)
The National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) student chapter seeks to encourage students of color to pursue graduate and professional degrees in chemistry, chemical engineering, and other chemistry-related fields. Members participate in professional development through national conference presentations, networking, and community service activities.

SPICE (https://spice.chem.wisc.edu/content/about-spice)
Students Participating in Chemical Education (SPICE) is a student organization which aims to interest elementary and middle school students in chemistry and science by showing them cool experiments and demonstrations.

Study Abroad (https://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/)
International Academic Programs (IAP) is a unit within the International Division of UW-Madison. IAP is the largest study abroad office on campus and sent over 1,300 students abroad last year. With over 200 programs in 60 countries, you can go anywhere with IAP!