

What about a major in...?

# Chemistry

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

CLA COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## What is Chemistry?

Chemistry probes the fundamental concepts of nature and helps us understand the world around us. It deals with all substances at the molecular level: their composition, their properties, and how they are transformed into new substances. Chemistry is a central science of great importance to society. It provides a broad range of opportunities in many specialized fields, including biotechnology, polymer chemistry, environmental chemistry, materials chemistry, and medicine. After graduating with a bachelor's degree, many chemistry majors go on to graduate or professional schools to pursue advanced degrees. Other graduates find employment in industry, education, or government.

## What are the major requirements?

Go to [www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html) and select "undergraduate majors." The College of Liberal Arts offers a B.A. in Chemistry.

## How do I declare a chemistry major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: make an appointment in 135 Smith Hall (624-6000) to learn about the Chemistry major's requirements.
2. When you decide upon a Chemistry major and have completed necessary requirements (potential majors must have lower division requirements completed prior to filling out a Major Program form), meet with the appropriate person from the department to complete a Major Program form and One Year Program Plan.
3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your CLA student community to learn more about your new major's declaration process.

## What can I do with a major in chemistry?

### Skills

Chemistry majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers.

These skills include:

- Knowledge of chemistry, appropriate lab techniques, and broad science knowledge
- Problem-solving skills
- Critical and analytical thinking skills
- Attention to detail
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team

### Employment

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Science—research, environmental analysis, quality control, product development positions
- Health Care (some positions require education beyond the bachelor's degree)—medicine,

## For more information:

### About the Chemistry major:

Undergraduate Advising  
135 Smith Hall  
612-624-6000

<http://www.chem.umn.edu>

### About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Health and Natural Sciences Student Community  
B-18 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-6044

<http://www.hns.class.umn.edu>

### or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program  
19 Johnston Hall

612-625-2300

<http://www.mlk.umn.edu/mlk@class.cla.umn.edu>

### About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community Learning Center  
135 Johnston Hall

612-624-7577

[www.cclc.umn.edu](http://www.cclc.umn.edu)

[cclc@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:cclc@class.cla.umn.edu)

### About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division  
20 Nicholson

612-624-5522

[www.cla.umn.edu/honors/honors@class.cla.umn.edu](http://www.cla.umn.edu/honors/honors@class.cla.umn.edu)

- pharmacy, health technician, nursing, toxicology, dentistry, veterinary medicine
- Communication—technical writers
  - Government—public information, campaigns, research, public office, federal programs
  - Business—marketing, human resources, sales, consulting, recruiting
  - Education—teaching, research, student affairs
  - Law—patent law, regulatory affairs

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

## **Remember!**

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

**Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!**