Chemistry is the study of materials, their composition, and their reactions with other materials. Chemists are in high demand in a variety of areas from medicine and industry to environmental protection. To better prepare chemistry graduates for the diverse career opportunities that will be presented to them, the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire has developed four major emphases in accordance with the American Chemical Society: chemistry with a teaching emphasis, chemistry with a business emphasis, biochemistry/molecular biology, and a comprehensive chemistry major. The Chemistry Department also offers liberal arts and teaching minors.

**Typical interests and values of chemistry majors:**
- Curiosity
- Interest in health and safety of others
- Likes to work independently
- Precision and attention to details
- Desire to observe, study, and create substances
- Willingness to take risks and assume responsibility

**Knowledge and skills gained from studying chemistry:**

**Knowledge:**
Chemistry involves the study of substances and energies. It focuses on composition, characteristics, changes, reactions, and uses of matter. Major sub-branches within chemistry include inorganic and organic chemistry, analytical chemistry, applied chemistry, biochemistry, and physical chemistry. Chemistry is used to produce food, clothing, drugs, plastics, paper, etc. Knowledge of chemistry is crucial to environmental protection efforts as well as health and safety.

**Skills:**
- Ability to identify and solve problems
- Makes critical observations
- Ability to design experiments, charts, and graphs
- Ability to develop theories
- Ability to maintain precision and accuracy
- Proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and memorization
- Ability to do sampling for surveys
- Extracting important information
- Accepting responsibility

**Related student and professional organizations:**

**Student:**
- American Chemical Society-Student Affiliate
- The Molecular Movement
- Pre-Med Club
- Pharmaceutical Society

**Professional:**
- American Chemical Society
- Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology
- National Science Foundation
- Chemical Heritage Foundation

**Career fields related to chemistry:**

**Potential Employers:**
Chemists have an extremely marketable skill; they are able to improve old materials and create new ones. Some employers of chemists include agricultural companies, chemical laboratories, food and beverage companies, health and protection branches, environmental consulting firms, police laboratories, science museums, newspapers, and magazines.

**Potential Job Titles:**
- Anesthesiologist
- Agricultural Scientist
- Brewery Lab Assistant
- Biochemist
- Chemical Engineer
- Chemist
- Chemical Oceanographer
- Crime Lab Analyst
- Dentist
- Food & Drug Analyst
- Forensic Chemist
- Geneticist
- Laboratory Analyst
- Medical Technologist
- Nuclear Scientist
- Nutritionist
- Occupational Therapist
- Patent Examiner
- Pharmacist
- Physician
- Researcher
- Soil Tester
- Environmental Health Specialist
Jobs You Might Also Consider:
- Hazardous Materials Specialist
- Clinical Laboratory Scientist
- Materials Scientist
- Industrial Scientist
- Forensic Scientist
- Fire Investigator
- Bioengineer
- Anesthesiologist
- Industrial Scientist
- Bioengineer
- Forensic Scientist
- Anesthesiologist

Sample entry level jobs held by UW-Eau Claire chemistry graduates:
- Lab Technologist, Land ‘O Lakes, Arden Hills, MN
- Associate Scientist, Mirus Bio Corporation, Madison, WI
- Chemist, Sigma Aldrich, Sheboygan Falls, WI
- Technical Specialist, Georgia Pacific, Neenah, WI
- Nutritional Chemist, Commercial Test Lab, Inc., Colfax, WI
- Chemical Analyst, 3M, Maplewood, MN
- Lab Technician, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Learn more about chemistry:
Department
- Contact UW–Eau Claire’s Department of Chemistry, Phillips 430, 836-3417

Getting started at Career Services:
- Meet with a career counselor
- Take interest inventory and self-assessment tests
- Utilize Blugold Career Success Network, a database of UW–Eau Claire alumni & friends available for informational interviewing
- Utilize Blugold CareerLink, an online job search database specifically for UWEC students and alum

Resources at Career Services:
Yellow Section:
- Sigi 3 handouts:
  - Chemistry
- Book sections:
  - Science
  - Health Care
- Internship information pertaining to Chemistry
Blue Section:
- Multiple resources to help you build a resume and cover letter for a career in chemistry.

Opportunities to enhance skills in chemistry:
Internships
Internships are a way to gain hands-on experience in a position that interests you as a potential career. To find an internship in chemistry, visit Career Services (Schofield 230) and speak with a career associate.

Research
There are many opportunities for students to participate in research to enhance the breadth of knowledge learned in the classroom. To learn about Research Experience for Undergraduates (REUs) visit the REU’s website, www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu. For additional information about research at UW-Eau Claire, contact the Department of Chemistry.

Directed Studies or Independent Study Class
By participating in a directed studies or independent study class, students will be able to research an area that they find particularly interesting. Contact your adviser about enrolling in CHEM 399, 495, 497, or 499.

What you can do now:
- Get a part-time job in a lab, a local hospital, or at a pharmacy as a technician
- Gain research experience by teaming with a chemistry (or related field) professor and conduct research
- Job shadow a professional in your area of interest or conduct an informational interview
- Get involved with the Pre-Med Career Exploration Program through Career Services