The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry provides classroom and laboratory learning experiences with dedicated and caring instructors. Undergraduate majors are able to participate in research experiences in faculty research groups, addressing cutting edge questions in basic science as well as applied science on locally relevant topics. The Chemistry BA provides general training in chemistry with the freedom to specialize in additional areas as well. Many choose to include a business or education focus.

**Why UMD**

- Active learning environment
- Access to state-of-the-art instrumentation
- Focus on undergraduate teaching and research

**Acquired Skills**

Apply critical thinking and quantitative skills to solve chemistry-related problems.

Effectively communicate (orally and in written form)

Apply experience with lab techniques and data analysis to responsibly design, safely perform and critically analyze the results of experiments which involve:

- The measurement of chemical quantities
- The synthesis and purification of chemical reaction products
- The simulation or modeling of chemical systems

**Career Possibilities**

Graduating chemists have multiple career options in industry, government, and academia ranging from research and development, quality control and manufacturing support, environmental and health law, patent law, policy and enforcement, education, activism and management. Our graduates are employed in small to large regional and national industries encompassing drug development and manufacturing, biotechnology, environmental and medical testing, and food processing. They are also employed as educators in K-12 settings.

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**Scholarships**

In addition to SCSE scholarships, our department has several that are focused upon upper-level chemistry majors including the UMD Peterson Memorial Scholarship, the Ballou Scholarship Honoring Dr. John C.
Cothran, the Robert Bayer Memorial Scholarship, the Catherine E. Cox Scholarship for Chemistry and Biochemistry, the James H. Maguire Award, and the F.B. Moore Academic and Leadership Scholarship. Further details on application criteria can be found on the departmental website.

**Student Clubs**

We have 2 chemistry and biochemistry clubs. The Chemistry and Biochemistry Club serves students in the department by fostering community outreach and by helping to strengthen chemistry education among undergraduate and local high-school students. The club also provides social activities, networking opportunities, and a platform for members to enhance their leadership and communications skills.

The Society of Chemists and Biochemists is focused on broadening scientific interests, engaging with the researchers and students behind the science and promoting personal and professional improvement. We accomplish this by fostering conversation and a sense of community among the chemists and biochemists on our campus.

In addition to these clubs some of our chemistry majors are involved in pre-professional clubs such as the following: Pre-Dentistry Club, Pre-Medicine Club (Pre-Med Club), Pre Optometry Club, Pre-OT Club, Pre-Pharmacy Club, Pre-Physical Therapy (Pre PT), Pre-Physician Assistant Club (Pre-PA Club), Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club

**Graduate Report**

Recent UMD Graduates Job Placement Data & Employers

Here's a sampling of positions Chemistry B.A. grads have attained six months to one year after graduation.

- 3M, Maplewood, MN - Laboratory Technician
- Beckman Coulter, Chaska, MN - Medical Diagnostic Scientist
- City of Superior, Superior, WI - Chemist
- Chemistry, Graduate School, University of Minnesota Duluth
- Physician Assistant Studies, Graduate School, Bethel University, St. Paul, MN
- Medical School, Marian University, Osteopathic Medical School, Indianapolis, IN
- Optometry School, Illinois College of Optometry, Chicago
- Pharmacy School, School of Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin Madison

For more data see the [Chemistry B.A. Graduate Follow-Up Report](#).

For ideas about Chemistry B.A. and other majors visit [Career & Internship Services](#).

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**Links**