

Seattle Central College Transfer Major Planning Guide

CHEMISTRY

What can I do with a major in chemistry?

Students who major in chemistry may plan to work as a chemist in the biotechnology, chemical, or pharmaceutical industry. Some chemistry majors plan to teach high school science, become a science writer, or work for the government or environmental organizations. Many students who major in chemistry plan to apply to graduate programs in chemistry or professional graduate programs such as those in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, or patent law. Chemistry majors may find that a graduate degree is required to move beyond entry-level jobs in many fields.

Common concentrations within the chemistry undergraduate major include:

- Biochemistry
- Chemical biology
- Chemical engineering
- Chemical physics
- Environmental chemistry
- Forensic chemistry
- Pharmaceutical chemistry

At some universities, these may also be separate majors.

How can I prepare at Seattle Central for a major in chemistry?

Students planning to major in chemistry at a baccalaureate institution usually take courses in **general chemistry, organic chemistry, calculus, and physics, as well as general education requirements**, to prepare to transfer. Specific requirements vary according to the transfer university, so it is strongly recommended that students work with an advisor at Seattle Central as well as advisors at the universities where they are considering transferring to ensure they take the appropriate classes to be prepared to enter the major when they transfer.

Students planning to major in chemistry should consider earning the Associate of Science – DTA or the Associate of Science – Option #1 degree to prepare to transfer. Advisors can help students look at prerequisite requirements and choose the degree that will work best for them.

Consider an emphasis to your associate degree before you transfer, such as Global Health or SAGE. This can enhance your resume, personal experience and be something you put into your personal statement. You may even already have completed it without knowing it! For questions on how to plan your emphasis, please contact your advisor.

Tips for Success as a Chemistry Major

- Students planning to study chemistry will need to take several sequences of courses, for example, a three-course sequences of chemistry for majors, as well as sequences of calculus, organic chemistry, and possibly other sciences. Check prerequisites for these courses, start early, and complete the entire sequence at the same college if at all possible.
- Most chemistry undergraduate programs will require calculus. If your math skills are weak or it has been some time since you took math, do not put off getting started! Depending on your placement scores, you may need to take math for several quarters before you are ready to start calculus.
- Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.
- Most universities offer a chemistry major, but the concentrations they offer vary. If you want to study biochemistry, for instance, make sure your intended transfer university offers that focus.
- Check both university *admission* and *graduation* requirements at your preferred transfer university as a guide to choosing your classes. Some universities, for example, may require a year of foreign language as a graduation requirement. It may be much easier (and cheaper!) to meet that requirement at Seattle Central rather than waiting until later.

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry in Washington?

Many universities offer chemistry as an undergraduate major. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> to find chemistry programs in Washington State or around the country.

Next Steps:

- Research the universities you are interested in attending and the prerequisite classes they require for your major.
- Meet with an advisor to choose a transfer degree, discuss prerequisites, and plan what classes you need to take in the next quarter or two.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.