General Facts on Employability

Chemistry is a practical field with a broad range of career possibilities. Salaries depend on degree earned and level and type of experience. Within 2-4 years of graduating with a BS or BA degree, the median salary for chemists is $42,000, with the lowest and highest 10% earning $31,000 and $53,000 respectively. At the other extreme, within 25-30 years of obtaining a PhD, the median chemist's salary is $104,000, with the lowest and highest 10% earning $67,000 and $170,000 respectively. While chemists with different degrees may work on the same projects together, a higher degree (PhD vs. MS vs. BA) allows greater autonomy & responsibility. Unemployment rates in chemistry are typically below 2%.

Fields Related to Chemistry:
- Aerospace
- Pharmaceuticals
- Agricultural
- Cosmetic
- Energy
- Biotechnology
- Public Health
- Food
- Textile and Fashion
- Forensics
- Environmental Concerns
- Alternative Fuels
- Advertising
- Information Technology

Careers Related to Chemistry:
- Pharmacist
- Pharmacologist
- Physician
- Dentist
- Physicist
- Veterinarian
- Educator
- Dietician
- Chemical Engineer
- Journal Editor
- Scientific Consultant
- Neuroscientist
- Communications
- Pathologist
- Investment Banker
- Food and Drug Inspector
- Toxicologist
- Engineer
- Museum Curator
- Government Advisor
- Librarian
- Pharmacologist
- Dentist
- Researcher
- Criminologist
- Geneticist
- Industrial Hygienist
- Book Publisher
- Film Consultant
- Aesthetician
- Visual Communications
- Ophthalmologist
- Inventor
- Nutritionist
- Food and Drug Analyst
- Patent Examiner
- Ceramic Lawyer
- Art Conservationist
- Pyrotechnician
- Federal Agent

Core Disciplines

Analytical: emphasis is on determining chemical composition of samples.

Biochemistry: emphasis is on characterizing biomolecules (e.g. proteins, nucleic acids, carbohydrates) and determining their biological function.

Inorganic: emphasis is on synthesis, reactivity and analysis of materials in which elements other than carbon play the key roles.

Organic: emphasis is on structure, properties, and reactivity of carbon-based molecules.

Physical: emphasis is on the mathematical basis for chemical phenomena.