BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHEMISTRY

Why study chemistry?
Because understanding the atomic and molecular nature of matter informs us about ourselves and our universe, and creating and finding applications for new and modified forms of matter helps to conserve and enhance our world.

Undergraduate Admission
Admission to KU
All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Unless they are college transfer students with at least 24 hours of credit, prospective students must send ACT or SAT scores to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (http://admissions.ku.edu) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (http://www.isss.ku.edu) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of Admissions (http://credittransfer.ku.edu) website.

Admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Admission to the College is a different process from admission to a major field. Some CLAS departments have admission requirements. See individual department/program sections for departmental admission requirements.

Chemistry Programs
The B.A. degree is for the student who wants to understand the fundamental principles of chemistry and to study a number of other fields. The B.S. degree prepares students for graduate school and professional careers. Both are based on a high school background that includes at least 1½ years of algebra and 1 year of geometry. High school courses in chemistry and physics are desirable but are not required. Many chemistry majors are preparing for medical school or for graduate study in chemistry and related fields. For graduate school, the common body of knowledge in the B.A. program is the minimum prerequisite. For premedical students, much of the knowledge will be important in their careers. Even more important, however, is the training in logical thinking, drawing conclusions from experimental observations, and digesting and understanding scientific information.

First- and Second-Year Preparation
Because study in chemistry requires preparation in mathematics and physics as well as a structured series of courses in chemistry, students should begin meeting major requirements in the first year. Students planning to major in chemistry should consult a chemistry department major advisor during their first semester to develop a 4-year plan for degree completion. It is particularly important to take CHEM 170 (or CHEM 130 or CHEM 190) and CHEM 175 (or CHEM 135 or CHEM 195) in the first year and CHEM 330 or (CHEM 380) and CHEM 331 in the second year. For those seeking a B.A. degree, it is also important to complete two semesters of calculus and two semesters of physics during the first two years. Minimum requirements in these subject areas for the B.A. degree are MATH 115, MATH 116, PHSX 114, PHSX 115.

Requirements for the B.A. Major
In addition to the common College requirements for the B.A., a minimum of 29 hours in chemistry (including 5 hours each of analytical, organic, and physical chemistry lecture and laboratory) and one year each of calculus and physics (prerequisites for physical chemistry) are required. These courses fulfill the requirements:

Chemistry Courses (40)
Select one of the following:
- CHEM 170 Chemistry for the Chemical Sciences I
- CHEM 130 General Chemistry I
- CHEM 190 Foundations of Chemistry I, Honors

Select one of the following:
- CHEM 175 Chemistry for the Chemical Sciences II
- CHEM 135 General Chemistry II
- CHEM 195 Foundations of Chemistry II, Honors

CHEM 180 Seminar I 0.5
CHEM 201 Laboratory Safety in the Chemical Sciences 1

Select one of the following:
- CHEM 330 Organic Chemistry I
  or CHEM 380 Organic Chemistry I, Honors
- CHEM 331 Organic Chemistry I Laboratory 2

Select one of the following:
- CHEM 335 Organic Chemistry II
  or CHEM 385 Organic Chemistry II, Honors
- CHEM 336 Organic Chemistry II Laboratory 2

Select one of the following: (CHEM 520 recommended) 5
- CHEM 520 Biological Physical Chemistry with Laboratory
- CHEM 530 Physical Chemistry I
  & CHEM 535 and Physical Chemistry II
  & CHEM 537 and Physical Chemistry Laboratory
- CHEM 620 Analytical Chemistry 3
- CHEM 621 Analytical Chemistry Laboratory 2
- CHEM 695 Seminar II 0.5

Select one of the following: (Fulfills KU Core Goal 6) 3
- CHEM 636 Instrumental Methods of Analysis Laboratory
  or CHEM 698 Undergraduate Research Problems
  or CHEM 699 Undergraduate Honors Research

Mathematics and Physics (14-20) 14-20
Mathematics: (choose one of the following (MATH 115 & MATH 116 recommended))
- MATH 115 Calculus I
  & MATH 116 and Calculus II
- MATH 125 Calculus I
  & MATH 126 and Calculus II
  & MATH 127 and Calculus III

Physics: (Choose one of the following (PHSX 114 & PHSX 115 recommended))
Courses that fulfill KU Core Goal 6 are CHEM 636 Instrumental Methods of Analysis Laboratory or 3 credits of CHEM 698 or CHEM 699. Students choosing CHEM 636 will be required to take CHEM 635 as the pre or co-requisite.

Biological Chemistry Option

This option is available to students interested in the biological applications of chemistry. The curriculum is compatible with many pre-health-professions programs and prepares the student for graduate study or career opportunities.

In addition to all of the requirements for the regular B.A. major, the following courses are required:

- BIOL 636 Biochemistry I 4
- BIOL 638 Biochemistry II 3
- Plus 1 elective (3) (In consultation with a faculty major advisor, choose 1 course from those listed in the Biology Option Group in requirements for the B.S. degree in Chemistry: Biological Chemistry option.)

Biology Option Group

- BIOL 350 Principles of Genetics
- BIOL 400 Fundamentals of Microbiology
- BIOL 416 Cell Structure and Function

Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

**Major Hours**
Satisfied by 40 hours of major courses.

**Major Hours in Residence**
Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

**Major Junior/Senior Hours**
Satisfied by a minimum of 23.5 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

**Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA**
Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa).

Sample 4-year plans for the BS degree in Chemistry can be found by using the left-side navigation.

Departmental Honors

Undergraduates may apply for admission to the departmental honors program after completion of an analytical, organic, and physical chemistry course but no sooner than the beginning of the junior year. Highly motivated and superior B.A. and B.S. students are admitted to the honors program. Honors in chemistry are awarded to students who have been admitted to the program and who have completed the following requirements with superior performance, including an overall KU GPA 3.25 and a major GPA of 3.5.

1. At least 2 semesters of CHEM 699 (4-8 hours total) resulting in a written thesis.
2. Evaluation and approval of the thesis by a faculty advisory committee.
3. Oral presentation of the thesis results at a special departmental seminar or other approved forum.

For an application form and further information, consult the department office.