Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Why study chemistry?

At KU Chemistry, we have faculty dedicated to mentoring both undergraduate and graduate students and to helping each student achieve scientific maturity. In addition to required classroom and laboratory courses, options exist for doing research in exciting areas of mainstream chemistry, including emerging fields of microfluidics, precision medicine and sustainable catalysis.

Undergraduate Program

The undergraduate program in the Department of Chemistry has two primary missions. One of these is to help its majors attain a mastery of the discipline in preparation for further study in chemistry or a chemical science, or for immediate employment in chemistry. The other is to provide an opportunity for students majoring in other disciplines to acquire a basic knowledge of the fundamental areas of chemistry.

The curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, a rigorous program certified by the American Chemical Society, consists of a full spectrum of chemistry courses as well as supporting courses in mathematics, physics, and biochemistry, and is designed to prepare students for a professional career in chemistry. The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program, with fewer required courses, allows students to obtain a broader knowledge of areas outside of chemistry, or to tailor their chemistry program for specific or unique objectives. We also offer a minor in chemistry for those seeking a secondary area of study.

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 International Support Services (http://www.iss.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.S. degree prepares students for graduate school and professional careers. 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. 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 & CHEM 191) and CHEM 175 (or CHEM 135 or CHEM 195 & CHEM 196) in the first year and CHEM 201, CHEM 330 (or CHEM 380) and CHEM 331 in the second year. For those seeking a B.S. degree it is also important to complete CHEM 335 (or CHEM 385) and CHEM 336 in the second year as well as their mathematics preparation (MATH 125, 126, 127 and CHEM 250) and physics preparation (PHSX 211 & PHSX 216, and PHSX 212 & PHSX 236) in the first 2 years.

Requirements for the B.S. Degree

General Education Requirements

All students must complete the KU Core.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 130</td>
<td>Calculus I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 141</td>
<td>Calculus I, Honors</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculus II</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 126</td>
<td>Calculus II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>or MATH 141</td>
<td>Calculus II, Honors</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Calculus III</td>
<td>Satisfied by one of the following:</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 127</td>
<td>Calculus III</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>or MATH 141</td>
<td>Calculus III, Honors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematical Methods for the Chemical Sciences</td>
<td>Satisfied by:</td>
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<td>CHEM 250</td>
<td>Mathematical Methods for the Chemical Sciences</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Physics I</td>
<td>Satisfied by one of the following:</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHSX 211</td>
<td>General Physics I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHSX 216</td>
<td>and General Physics I Laboratory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHSX 213</td>
<td>General Physics I Honors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Physics II</td>
<td>Satisfied by one of the following:</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>
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**Chemistry Core Knowledge and Skills**

Majors must complete courses as indicated in the following areas:

- **Chemistry for the Chemical Sciences I.** Satisfied by one of the following:
  - CHEM 170 Chemistry for the Chemical Sciences I
  - CHEM 130 General Chemistry I
  - CHEM 190 Foundations of Chemistry I, Honors
  & CHEM 191 and Foundations of Chemistry I Laboratory, Honors
  Chemistry for the Chemical Sciences II. Satisfied by 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 196 and Foundations of Chemistry II Laboratory, Honors

- **Seminar I.** Satisfied by:
  - CHEM 180 Seminar I

- **Laboratory Safety in the Chemical Sciences.** Satisfied by:
  - CHEM 201 Laboratory Safety in the Chemical Sciences

- **Organic Chemistry I (Lecture and Lab).** Satisfied by:
  - CHEM 330 Organic Chemistry I
  or CHEM 380 Organic Chemistry I, Honors

- **Chemistry Prerequisite or Co-requisite Knowledge**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHSX 212</td>
<td>General Physics II</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHSX 236</td>
<td>and General Physics II Laboratory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHSX 214</td>
<td>General Physics II Honors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry. Satisfied by one of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 600</td>
<td>Introductory Biochemistry, Lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 636</td>
<td>Biochemistry I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 635</td>
<td>Mathematical Methods for the Chemical Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 640</td>
<td>Analytical Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 641</td>
<td>Advanced Inorganic Laboratory</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 642</td>
<td>Capstone Experience (Fulfills KU Core Goal 6). Satisfied by one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
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<td>CHEM 643</td>
<td>General Physics I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHSX 211</td>
<td>General Physics I Laboratory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHSX 216</td>
<td>General Physics I Honors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHSX 213</td>
<td>General Physics I Honors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Physics II. Satisfied by one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHSX 212</td>
<td>General Physics II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHSX 236</td>
<td>and General Physics II Laboratory</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Major Hours & Major GPA**

KU Core Goal 6 is satisfied by either CHEM 636 Instrumental Methods of Analysis Laboratory, or 3 credit hours of CHEM 698 or CHEM 699. While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

- **Major Hours**
  - Satisfied by 47 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 35.5 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

- **Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA**
  - Satisfied by a minimum of 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/](http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa/))

**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.

**General Education Requirements**

All students must complete the KU Core.

**Code**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry Prerequisite or Co-requisite Knowledge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Majors must complete courses as specified in each of the following areas. Majors are advised to take honors courses when eligible. These hours do not contribute to the minimum number of hours required for the major.

- **Calculus I.** Satisfied by one of the following: 4
  - MATH 125 Calculus I
  or MATH 141 Calculus I, Honors

- **Calculus II.** Satisfied by one of the following: 4
  - MATH 126 Calculus II
  or MATH 141 Calculus II, Honors

- **Calculus III.** Satisfied by one of the following: 4
  - MATH 127 Calculus III
  or MATH 141:Calculus III, Honors

- **Mathematical Methods for the Chemical Sciences.** Satisfied by: 3
  - CHEM 250 Mathematical Methods for the Chemical Sciences

- **General Physics I.** Satisfied by one of the following: 5
  - PHSX 211 General Physics I
  & PHSX 216 and General Physics I Laboratory

- **General Physics II.** Satisfied by one of the following: 4
  - PHSX 212 General Physics II
  & PHSX 236 and General Physics II Laboratory
Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

PhSX 214  General Physics II Honors

Chemistry Core Knowledge and Skills
Majors must complete courses as indicated in the following areas:

Chemistry for the Chemical Sciences I. Satisfied by one of the following:

CHEM 170  Chemistry for the Chemical Sciences I
CHEM 130  General Chemistry I
CHEM 190  Foundations of Chemistry I, Honors
       & CHEM 191  and Foundations of Chemistry I Laboratory, Honors

Chemistry for the Chemical Sciences II. Satisfied by 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 196  and Foundations of Chemistry II Laboratory, Honors

Seminar I. Satisfied by:

CHEM 180  Seminar I

Laboratory Safety in the Chemical Sciences. Satisfied by:

CHEM 201  Laboratory Safety in the Chemical Sciences

Organic Chemistry I (Lecture and Lab). Satisfied by:

CHEM 330  Organic Chemistry I
       or CHEM 38  Organic Chemistry I, Honors
CHEM 331  Organic Chemistry I Laboratory

Organic Chemistry II (Lecture and Lab). Satisfied by:

CHEM 335  Organic Chemistry II
       or CHEM 38  Organic Chemistry II, Honors
CHEM 336  Organic Chemistry II Laboratory

Analytical Chemistry (Lecture and Lab). Satisfied by:

CHEM 400  Analytical Chemistry
       & CHEM 401  and Analytical Chemistry Laboratory

Physical Chemistry I. Satisfied by:

CHEM 530  Physical Chemistry I

Physical Chemistry II. Satisfied by:

CHEM 535  Physical Chemistry II

Physical Chemistry Laboratory. Satisfied by:

CHEM 537  Physical Chemistry Laboratory

Instrumental Methods of Analysis. Satisfied by:

CHEM 635  Instrumental Methods of Analysis

Systematic Inorganic Chemistry. Satisfied by:

CHEM 660  Systematic Inorganic Chemistry

Advanced Inorganic Laboratory. Satisfied by:

CHEM 661  Advanced Inorganic Laboratory

Seminar II. Satisfied by:

CHEM 695  Seminar II

Capstone Experience (Fulfills KU Core Goal 6). Satisfied by one of the following:

CHEM 636  Instrumental Methods of Analysis Laboratory
       or CHEM 69  Undergraduate Capstone Research
       or CHEM 69  Undergraduate Honors Research

Biological Chemistry Core Knowledge and Skills
Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology. Satisfied by:

BIOL 150  Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology

Biochemistry. Satisfied by:

BIOL 636  Biochemistry I
BIOL 638  Biochemistry II

Biochemistry Laboratory. Satisfied by:

BIOL 637  Introductory Biochemistry Laboratory

Biological Chemistry Required Electives
Majors choosing this option should select 1 elective (3 hours) from the following:

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 47 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 35.5 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/).

Chemical Physics Option
This option allows students to focus on the theoretical basis of chemistry. Students are prepared for graduate programs or employment.

General Education Requirements
All students must complete the KU Core.

Code  Title  Hours
PhSX 214  General Physics II Honors

Biochemistry. Satisfied by:

CHEM Prerequisite or Co-requisite Knowledge
Majors must complete courses as specified in each of the following areas. Majors are advised to take honors courses when eligible. These hours do not contribute to the minimum number of hours required for the major.

Calculus I. Satisfied by one of the following:

MATH 125  Calculus I
       or MATH 141  Calculus I, Honors
Calculus II. Satisfied by one of the following:

MATH 126  Calculus II
       or MATH 142  Calculus II, Honors
Calculus III. Satisfied by one of the following:

MATH 127  Calculus III
       or MATH 143  Calculus III, Honors

Differential Equations. Satisfied by one of the following:

MATH 220  Applied Differential Equations
MATH 320  Elementary Differential Equations
Elementary Linear Algebra. Satisfied by:  
MATH 290  Elementary Linear Algebra  

General Physics I. Satisfied by one of the following:  
PHSX 211  General Physics I  
& PHSX 216  and General Physics I Laboratory  
PHSX 213  General Physics I Honors  

General Physics II. Satisfied by one of the following:  
PHSX 212  General Physics II  
& PHSX 236  and General Physics II Laboratory  
PHSX 214  General Physics II Honors  

Biochemistry. Satisfied by one of the following:  
BIOL 600  Introductory Biochemistry, Lectures  
BIOL 636  Biochemistry I  

**Chemistry Core Knowledge and Skills**  
Majors must complete courses as indicated in the following areas:  
Chemistry for the Chemical Sciences I. Satisfied by one of the following:  
CHEM 170  Chemistry for the Chemical Sciences I  
CHEM 130  General Chemistry I  
CHEM 190  Foundations of Chemistry I, Honors  
& CHEM 191  and Foundations of Chemistry I Laboratory, Honors  

Chemistry for the Chemical Sciences II. Satisfied by 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 196  and Foundations of Chemistry II Laboratory, Honors  

Seminar I. Satisfied by:  
CHEM 180  Seminar I  

Laboratory Safety in the Chemical Sciences. Satisfied by:  
CHEM 201  Laboratory Safety in the Chemical Sciences  

Organic Chemistry I (Lecture and Lab). Satisfied by:  
CHEM 330  Organic Chemistry I  
or CHEM 38 Organic Chemistry I, Honors  
CHEM 331  Organic Chemistry I Laboratory  

Organic Chemistry II (Lecture and Lab). Satisfied by:  
CHEM 335  Organic Chemistry II  
or CHEM 38 Organic Chemistry II, Honors  
CHEM 336  Organic Chemistry II Laboratory  

Analytical Chemistry (Lecture and Lab). Satisfied by:  
CHEM 400  Analytical Chemistry  
& CHEM 401  and Analytical Chemistry Laboratory  

Physical Chemistry I. Satisfied by:  
CHEM 530  Physical Chemistry I  

Physical Chemistry II. Satisfied by:  
CHEM 535  Physical Chemistry II  

Physical Chemistry Laboratory. Satisfied by:  
CHEM 537  Physical Chemistry Laboratory  

Instrumental Methods of Analysis. Satisfied by:  
CHEM 635  Instrumental Methods of Analysis  

Systematic Inorganic Chemistry. Satisfied by:  
CHEM 660  Systematic Inorganic Chemistry  

Advanced Inorganic Laboratory. Satisfied by:  
CHEM 661  Advanced Inorganic Laboratory  

Seminar II. Satisfied by:  
CHEM 695  Seminar II  

Capstone Experience (Fulfills KU Core Goal 6). Satisfied by one of the following:  
CHEM 636  Instrumental Methods of Analysis Laboratory  
or CHEM 69 Undergraduate Capstone Research  
or CHEM 69 Undergraduate Honors Research  

**Chemical Physics Core Knowledge and Skills**  
Majors must complete 2 courses from each of the following groups:  
Group I  
PHSX 313  General Physics III  
& PHSX 316  and Intermediate Physics Laboratory I (PHSX 313 and PHSX 316 should be taken concurrently)  
PHSX 518  Mathematical Physics  
PHSX 521  Mechanics I  
PHSX 615  Numerical and Computational Methods in Physics  
PHSX 655  Optics  
PHSX 681  Concepts in Solids  

Group II  
PHSX 531  Electricity and Magnetism  
PHSX 621  Mechanics II  
MATH 646  Complex Variable and Applications  
MATH 647  Applied Partial Differential Equations  
CHEM 698  Undergraduate Capstone Research  
CHEM 750  Introduction to Quantum Mechanics  

**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 47 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 35.5 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/).  

**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 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.