About the Major

Students will study the composition and behavior of matter, including its micro and macro structure, the process of chemical change, and the theoretical description and laboratory simulation of these phenomena. Most of their time will be spent in a laboratory setting where they will learn to look at the world around them, draw conclusions based upon their observations, and challenge current beliefs.

Sample Coursework

- Principles of Chemistry I & II
- Experimental Chemistry I & II
- Physics (Mechanics)
- Math (Calculus)
- Organic Chemistry I & II
- Molecular Biology
- Physical Chemistry of Bulk Matter

Employment and Graduate School Information

Employment Outlook

Employment for chemists is projected to grow about as fast as the average through 2016. Job growth will be concentrated in pharmaceutical and biotechnology research (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09).

Salary Expectations

Median annual earnings of chemists were $59,870. The middle 50 percent earned between $44,780 and $82,610 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09). The average starting salary for graduates with a Bachelor’s degree in chemistry is $43,951 (NACE, 2008).

(This section is intended for informational purposes, not prediction of actual salary. Salary information is based on national salary ranges which are greatly impacted by location and relative cost of living.)

Graduate/Professional School Opportunities

Graduates with a master’s degree, and particularly those with a Ph.D., will enjoy better opportunities than those with a bachelor’s degree (OOH, 2008-09). Some choose to pursue studies in one of the following areas: Law, Education, Chemistry, Pharmacy, Medicine, and Dentistry.

Possible Career Opportunities

- Biochemist*
- Clinical Research Coordinator
- Chemist*
- Dentist*
- Optometrist*
- Research Analyst

* = Career option requires additional training or education

Where Could I Work?

- Federal/State/Local Government
- Educational Institutions
- Labs
- Business

Where Can I Get More Information?

Purdue School of Science
Office: LD 326 Phone: (317) 274-6812
chem.iupui.edu

IUPUI Chemistry Club
chem.iupui.edu/~chemclub

America Chemical Society
acs.org

Interest Code

Investigative Realistic Enterprising