

The Undergraduate Program

The Chemistry Department at the University of Virginia aims to develop highly skilled and educated scientists by providing an undergraduate education rooted in experience and research. The department consists of over 40 internationally recognized faculty who excel in research and teaching. Because of this strength, students are exposed to interdisciplinary scientific fields, specialized instrumentation, and meaningful research experiences.

Honors Track:

The 800 series is designed as an accelerated group of courses for students who are considering majoring in a science and have a strong background in chemistry (AP, IB, dual enrollment, etc.). Coursework in the Honors Track stresses greater depth in the material and emphasizes a fundamentals first approach from atomic structure to reactivity.

Degrees Offered:

- **B.A. in Chemistry**

The B.A. is a flexible program designed as preparation for further study in a wide range of fields. With a minimum number of required courses, the chemistry B.A. permits the student to design an undergraduate program uniquely suited to their individual needs.

- **B.S. in Chemistry**

The B.S. is a pre-professional degree designed for students whose career plans involve chemistry, either through further graduate training or by direct employment. The program, which is certified by the American Chemical Society, emphasizes intensive study in the sciences.

Advanced Courses Offered:

Students in their third and fourth years are encouraged to enroll in graduate-level courses that focus on advanced topics, such as Organic Synthesis, Organometallics, Spectroscopy, Thermodynamics, Quantum Chemistry and Biochemistry. These courses provide a more thorough presentation of advanced subjects and an introduction to graduate coursework.

- **B.S. in Chemistry with Specialization**

The specialization options for the B.S. degree are designed for students have particular interest in the areas of biochemistry, chemical physics, environmental chemistry, materials science, or chemical education. These specializations focus on particular subfields of chemistry and require specific advanced coursework.

- **Distinguished Major with Research**

The Distinguished Major incorporates the coursework of a standard B.S. major along with a year of research in an independent lab under the supervision of a faculty member. Students in the final year of the program are required to write a thesis and give a public presentation of their research.