Chemists study what already exists and create new substances and materials at the molecular level. Chemistry can be used to make smart materials that can monitor your life signs, to analyze parts per trillion of environmental contaminants, and design nanostructured materials that can efficiently convert water into fuel.

Program highlights

Register in courses such as:
- CHEM 121 — Atomic and Molecular Chemistry
- CHEM 123 — Physical and Organic Chemistry
- CHEM 319 — Topics in Computerized Instrumentation

Your career options

Career options include environmental chemist, food scientist, and professions in the pharmaceutical and health-care industries.

Getting Started

First-year standing

Explore the Chemistry major by visiting the Department of Chemistry website and reviewing the Academic Calendar. Learn more about your major requirements by logging into Degree Navigator and reviewing the First-Year Planning Guides.

Book an appointment with an advisor to discuss program or career-related questions. Find the advisor that is right for you by reviewing advising options available.

Visit the Student Learning Hub throughout your degree for free supports from peers and professionals that include tutoring in math, sciences, languages, and writing. Participate in Supplemental Learning - free, weekly, peer-facilitated study sessions.

Moving Through your Degree

Second-year standing

Declare the Chemistry major on the Student Service Centre (SSC) during the registration period between June and mid-September after completing a minimum of 24 credits. Find unique courses to fill your elective requirements or add a minor.

Meet with an instructor or TA during office hours: ask a question, discuss an assignment, or go over lecture material. International Students: Contact International Student Advising to review your study status.

Consider further education: Find graduate programs at UBCO and beyond. Research application requirements, admissions information, and funding options.

Moving Through your Degree

Third-year standing

Explore a topic of interest in depth by participating in Undergraduate Research. Apply for an NSERC or an Undergraduate Research Award to fund your research. Explore co-op opportunities to strengthen your skills and build your work experience by applying to the Co-operative Education Office. Applications open in September to students with 3rd year standing or higher.

Study abroad by participating in a Global program such as exchange, faculty-led global seminar, or research abroad.

Apply to the Chemistry honours program at the end of the third year of study (after completing a minimum of 54 credits).

Preparing for Graduation and Your Future

Fourth-year standing

Market yourself to employers by reflecting on your UBCO experience and identifying the skills and knowledge you developed through the activities you participated in. Meet with a Career Development Specialist for help with your resume, cover letter, and job search strategy.

Schedule an appointment with an advisor the term before you plan to graduate to ensure that you will meet all academic graduation requirements.

Review graduation eligibility requirements and deadlines before you apply to graduate and learn about convocation.

How to use the Program Plan:

Tuum est! This Program Plan is designed to help shape your UBC experience, challenge yourself to try new things, and become the person and scholar you want to be to help make your time at UBC Okanagan yours. The Program Plan offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all!

The Program Plan includes four categories:
- Explore the Major: Explore what you’ll be studying and learning. Make connections between your program and future career or education opportunities and goals.
- Connect and Build Community: Making connections will help develop your support network throughout your studies and beyond.
- Develop Skills and Gain Relevant Experience: Expand your capacity to understand the changing world and embrace different perspectives by seeking out new experiences and opportunities.
- Plan ahead! Statements highlighted with a symbol must be completed during a specific term(s) or have an associated deadline.
Explore experiential education and engage with opportunities on and off campus to increase knowledge, develop skills, clarify values, and build your capacity to contribute to your communities.

New to UBC? Participate in orientation and transition programming to connect with other students and get involved in the campus community.

Find on-campus events to meet new people and get involved with the campus community using the Events Calendar.

Meet a Student Connector at Student Connect for help with navigating campus and to learn more about the opportunities available at UBC Okanagan.

Follow @UBCOSummer on Instagram for campus tips, opportunities, and event updates.

Attend a Heat Varsity Athletics game. Admission is free with your student UBC card.

Use the Events Calendar to find on-campus opportunities for personal and professional development.

Connect with the Academic & Career Development team for support with exploring opportunities that will help you achieve your career or education goals.

Looking to volunteer, intern, or gain work experience? Assess what experience you have and fill any gaps by participating in Career Development workshops and finding opportunities on the Student & Alumni Job Board.

Apply to the Work Study program to build skills and grow your professional network with paid on-campus positions that work around your class schedule.

Apply to Entrepreneurship@UBC to explore your start-up ideas through mentorship and training programs.

Book an appointment with a Learning Strategist at any stage in your degree for help with study skills and learning strategies.

Immerse yourself in your experiences through Immersive Experiences:

Explore professional associations such as the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) for more information about potential careers, networking, and professional development opportunities and more.

Give back to the campus community by volunteering or applying to work on campus: Student Alumni Job Board.

Gain leadership experience by running for an executive position in a student association, study group, or social club to connect with peers.

Apply for support with exploring careers of interest by looking at job boards and employer websites.

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest by looking at job boards and employer websites.

Get Involved Program: Take part in unique opportunities and programs. Find ways to immerse yourself in your experiences.

New to UBC? Participate in orientation and transition programming to connect with other students and get involved in the campus community.

Branch out, get involved in student life, and have fun by joining a student association or one of the Chemical Sciences Course Unions to meet peers and participate in events and activities.

Get active! UBCO Recreation offers activities like intramural sports, fitness classes, and other special events and activities.

Build your networking skills with alumni working in careers in your desired industry by using Ten Thousand Coffees and LinkedIn or by attending career events and workshops.

Apply to the Tuum Est Initiative Fund for funding support to attend a conference, fund a student-led program, or represent UBC Okanagan at an academic competition.

Find other work opportunities or apply to the Co-op program to strengthen your resume.

Summarize and organize your academic and out-of-classroom experiences and accomplishments in a resume, CV, or portfolio with help from a Career Development Specialist.

Gain leadership experience by running for an executive position in a student association or the Student Union Okanagan (SUO).

Get Involved with Student Union Okanagan (SUO) resource groups:

- Indigenous Peoples Collective (IPC)
- Peer Support Network (PSN)
- Pride Resource Centre (PRC)
- Women’s Resource Centre (WRC)
- Sex Positivity Centre (SPC)

Join the Get Involved Program: sign up for volunteer projects in the Okanagan.

Attend Selkwa community events to get connected and learn about different cultures, activities, and experiences that make the Okanagan unique.

Build your cross-cultural skills and intercultural fluency by participating in the Intercultural Development Program.