

# CHEMISTRY, B.S.

Saint Louis University's Bachelor of Science in Chemistry provides excellent preparation for students seeking employment in industry (chemical, pharmaceutical, agriculture, etc.) or the government (Department of Defense labs, regulatory agencies, law enforcement). It also provides a solid foundation for students who want to continue their studies in professional (medical, dental, veterinary, law, etc.) or graduate school.

SLU's Department of Chemistry places a great emphasis on undergraduate research. Chemistry majors have ample opportunity to pursue research projects under the close mentorship of a full-time faculty member. Students use a variety of specialized equipment and computers in their laboratories and in their research.

## Program Highlights

- The chemistry program provides a rigorous curriculum, making graduates competitive for employment in STEM areas.
- Students in upper-level and major-specific chemistry courses enjoy small classes and personalized attention.
- The chemistry program offers opportunities for students to strengthen their scientific communication skills through research activities that pair an undergraduate with a faculty researcher.
- SLU provides a unique mentoring program for freshmen through senior years to guide and support students in reaching their professional goals.
- Monthly and annual department-hosted social events and a chemistry club for interested students.

## Curriculum Overview

- **First year:** General Chemistry 1 and 2, Calculus I and II
- **Second year:** Organic Chemistry 1 and 2, Analytical Chemistry 1, Engineering Physics I and II
- **Third year:** Physical Chemistry 1 and 2, Biochemistry, physical chemistry lab, Organic Spectroscopy, Chemical Literature, undergraduate research
- **Fourth year:** Analytical Chemistry 2 and 3, General Biochemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, inorganic chemistry lab, undergraduate research, and Mathematical Techniques in Chemistry

## Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

The benefits of SLU's chemistry program also include internship and career opportunities. Selected undergraduate students can apply to work with faculty in undergraduate laboratories as laboratory assistants. Lab assistants receive a stipend. Internships in the St. Louis area are also available.

Undergraduates who study chemistry at SLU can attend professional meetings and present their research results. SLU students have presented numerous talks and poster presentations at regional and national meetings of the American Chemical Society and other scientific conferences in recent years.

## Careers

Career options in chemistry include:

- Education
- Chemical research and development in industry or government laboratories
- Pharmaceutical research and drug development
- Environmental research
- Management and administration in the chemical industry
- Chemical and pharmaceutical sales

Other graduates continue through law school, specializing in patent or environmental law. The public health sector is also a common area for chemists to work.

## Admission Requirements

Begin Your Application (<https://www.slu.edu/apply.php>)

Saint Louis University also accepts the Common Application and the Coalition Application.

## Freshman

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, applicants must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test.

## Transfer

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED or HiSET.

Students who have attempted fewer than 24 semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must follow the above freshman admission requirements. Students who have completed 24 or more semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must submit transcripts from all previously attended college(s).

In reviewing a transfer applicant's file, the Office of Admission holistically examines the student's academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student's ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University. Where applicable, transfer students will be evaluated on any courses outlined in the continuation standards of their preferred major.

## International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- All academic records must include an English translation. An official course-by-course transcript evaluation may be required and accepted.

## Tuition

Tuition/Fee	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$58,960
University Fees	\$1,000

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/>)

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2025, 99.6% of first-time freshmen and 92% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$517 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Feb. 1.

For more information on scholarships and financial aid, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

## Accreditation

The Bachelor of Science in Chemistry has been continuously certified by the American Chemical Society since 1946.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate a foundational understanding of inorganic, physical and biochemistry and advanced knowledge in organic and analytical chemistry.
2. Graduates will be able to demonstrate proficiency in basic (general, physical, inorganic) and advanced (organic and analytical) laboratory techniques and conduct laboratory experiments safely.
3. Graduates will be able to collect, interpret and analyze quantitative data.
4. Graduates will be able to communicate scientific results effectively, especially through written reports and oral presentations.
5. Graduates will be able to design and conduct independent research.

## Requirements

Chemistry students must complete a minimum total of 61 credits for the B.S. major.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>University Undergraduate Core (<a href="https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/">https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/</a>)</b>		<b>32-35</b>
<b>Major Requirements</b>		<b>61</b>
CHEM 1130 & CHEM 1115	General Chemistry 1 for Majors and General Chemistry 1 Laboratory	4

CHEM 1140 & CHEM 1125	General Chemistry 2 for Majors and General Chemistry 2 Laboratory	4
CHEM 2200 & CHEM 2205	Analytical Chemistry 1 and Analytical Chemistry 1 Laboratory	4
CHEM 2430 & CHEM 2435	Organic Chemistry 1 for Majors and Organic Chemistry 1 Lab for Majors	4
CHEM 2440 & CHEM 2445	Organic Chemistry 2 for Majors and Organic Chemistry 2 Laboratory for Majors	4
CHEM 3100	The Chemical Literature	1
CHEM 3330	Physical Chemistry 1	3
CHEM 3340	Physical Chemistry 2	3
CHEM 3345	Physical Chemistry Laboratory	1
CHEM 3600	Principles of Biochemistry	3
CHEM 3870	Undergraduate Research in Chemistry (Students can take multiple times for a total of 3 credits)	1-3
CHEM 4200 & CHEM 4205	Analytical Chemistry 2 and Analytical Chemistry 2 Laboratory	4
CHEM 4300	Mathematical Techniques in Chemistry	3
CHEM 4400	Organic Spectroscopy	3
CHEM 4500 & CHEM 4505	Inorganic Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory	4
MATH 1520	Calculus II	4
PHYS 1610 & PHYS 1620	University Physics I and University Physics I Laboratory <sup>1</sup>	4
PHYS 1630 & PHYS 1620	University Physics II and University Physics I Laboratory <sup>1</sup>	4
<i>Required Major Elective(s)</i> <sup>2</sup>		3
Select 3 credits of electives from the approved list <sup>2</sup>		
<b>University Electives</b>		<b>30-33</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>120</b>

<sup>1</sup> Engineering Physics I and II with lab are recommended for majors unless they are pre-medical. Physics I and II with lab (PHYS 1310 College Physics I (3 cr), PHYS 1320 College Physics I Laboratory (1 cr), PHYS 1330 College Physics II (3 cr), and PHYS 1340 College Physics II Laboratory (1 cr)) also fulfill the physics requirement and are recommended for pre-medical students

<sup>2</sup> Any additional CHEM 3000 or higher level course (CHEM 4610 and 4620 cannot be used to satisfy this requirement unless students substitute CHEM 4610 for CHEM 3600. If so, CHEM 4620 can satisfy this requirement.), MATH 2530 Calculus III (4 cr), STAT 1300 Elementary Statistics with Computers (3 cr), STAT 3850 Foundation of Statistics (3 cr), PHIL 4150 Philosophy of Science (3 cr), PHIL 4160 Philosophy and Physics (3 cr), ECE 2101 Electrical Circuits I (3 cr), CSCI 1020 Introduction to Computer Science: Bioinformatics (3 cr), CSCI 1060 Introduction to Computer Science: Scientific Programming (3 cr), PHYS 2610 Modern Physics (3 cr), PHYS 3310 Optics (3 cr), PHYS 4010 Nanoscience and Nanofabrication Frontier (3 cr), CVNG 4250 Water Treatment Processes (3 cr), EAS 2480 Foundations of Environmental Science (3 cr), FRSC 2600 Survey of Forensic Science (3 cr), FRSC 3620 Forensic Chemistry (2 cr), FRSC 3621 Forensic Chemistry Laboratory (1 cr), FRSC 3630 Forensic Biology (2 cr), FRSC 3631 Forensic Biology Laboratory (1 cr), FRSC 3640 Fingerprints (3 cr), CSO 1600 Cannabis Extraction & Product Production (3 cr), CSO 2000 Pharmacological Properties of Cannabis (3 cr), or any other

course that prepares a student for their future science- or health-related career that is approved by the Undergraduate Program Coordinator

For any of the B.S. programs, a combination of MATH 2530 Calculus III (4 cr) and MATH 3110 Applied Linear Algebra (3 cr) can be used as a substitute for CHEM 4300 Mathematical Techniques in Chemistry (3 cr).

## Non-Course Requirements

All School of Science and Engineering B.A. and B.S. students must complete an exit interview/survey near the end of their bachelor's program.

Students must complete an undergraduate thesis at the culmination of their CHEM 3870 requirement.

## Continuation Standards

The following standards apply to all new freshmen and transfer students:

- Students must earn a "C-" or better in General Chemistry I (CHEM 1110 General Chemistry 1 (3 cr)/CHEM 1130 General Chemistry 1 for Majors (3 cr) and a "C-" or better in General Chemistry II (CHEM 1120 General Chemistry 2 (3 cr), CHEM 1140 General Chemistry 2 for Majors (0,3 cr), or the equivalent in transfer.
- Students must earn a "C-" or better in CHEM 2200 Analytical Chemistry 1 (3 cr).

Students who do not earn a "C-" in any of the identified courses must retake the course at SLU in the following semester. If a "C-" is not earned on the second attempt the student will be dismissed from the major. A student who withdraws from one of these courses on the first attempt thus has one more attempt to earn a "C-."

Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in their major (CHEM) and required related courses (BIOL, PHYS, MATH, etc.) If a student falls below a 2.0 major GPA the student must meet with the undergraduate program director to review their academic performance. If the student cannot raise their major GPA to 2.0 in two semesters, the student will be dismissed from the major.

## Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student's academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

*Roadmap notes:*

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an "!" are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
CHEM 1130	General Chemistry 1 for Majors	3
CHEM 1115	General Chemistry 1 Laboratory	1
MATH 1510	Calculus I	4

University Core	7
<b>Credits</b>	<b>15</b>

### Spring

CHEM 1140	General Chemistry 2 for Majors	3
CHEM 1125	General Chemistry 2 Laboratory	1
MATH 1520	Calculus II	4
University Core	6	

**Credits** 14

### Year Two

#### Fall

CHEM 2430	Organic Chemistry 1 for Majors	3
CHEM 2435	Organic Chemistry 1 Lab for Majors	1
PHYS 1610	University Physics I	3
PHYS 1620	University Physics I Laboratory	1
University Core	6	

**Credits** 14

#### Spring

CHEM 2200	Analytical Chemistry 1	3
CHEM 2205	Analytical Chemistry 1 Laboratory	1
CHEM 2440	Organic Chemistry 2 for Majors	3
CHEM 2445	Organic Chemistry 2 Laboratory for Majors	1
PHYS 1630	University Physics II	3
PHYS 1640	University Physics II Laboratory	1
University Core	3	

**Credits** 15

### Year Three

#### Fall

CHEM 3330	Physical Chemistry 1	3
CHEM 3100	The Chemical Literature	1
University Core	6	
University Electives	6	

**Credits** 16

#### Spring

CHEM 3340	Physical Chemistry 2	3
CHEM 3345	Physical Chemistry Laboratory	1
CHEM 4400	Organic Spectroscopy	3
CHEM 3870	Undergraduate Research in Chemistry	1
University Core	9	

**Credits** 17

### Year Four

#### Fall

CHEM 4500	Inorganic Chemistry	3
CHEM 4200	Analytical Chemistry 2	3
CHEM 4205	Analytical Chemistry 2 Laboratory	1
CHEM 3870	Undergraduate Research in Chemistry	1
University Core	3	
University Electives	4	

**Credits** 15

#### Spring

CHEM 3600	Principles of Biochemistry	3
CHEM 4300	Mathematical Techniques in Chemistry	3
CHEM 4505	Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory	1

CHEM 3870	Undergraduate Research in Chemistry	1
	Required major elective	3
	University Electives	3
<b>Completion of Undergraduate Thesis</b>		
<b>Completion of Exit Interview</b>		
	<b>Credits</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>120</b>

## 2+SLU

2+SLU programs provide a guided pathway for students transferring from a partner institution.

Chemistry, B.S. (STLCC 2+SLU) (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/2plusslu/stlcc/chemistry-bs/>)

## Contact Us

For more information about undergraduate chemistry programs, please call 314-977-2850 or email [chemundergrad@slu.edu](mailto:chemundergrad@slu.edu).