CHEMISTRY
What can I do with this degree?

**ANALYTICAL**
- Research
- Development
- Analysis and Testing
- Consulting
- Environmental
- Forensics

**EMPLOYERS**
- Federal, state, and local government
- Federal agencies including National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Manufacturing firms including textile, petroleum, food, electronics, glass, paper, packaging, machinery, cosmetics, paint, drug, and chemical industries
- Industrial production and inspection agencies
- Research laboratories and organizations
- Environmental protection organizations
- Colleges and universities

**STRATEGIES**
- Learn federal, state, and local government job application process.
- Gain experience in a laboratory.
- Become proficient with high-tech scientific equipment.
- Take electives in your area of interest.

**BIOCHEMICAL**
- Research
- Development
- Analysis and Testing
- Consulting
- Quality Control
- Medical
- Environmental
- Industrial Health & Safety
- Hospital Administration

**EMPLOYERS**
- Research laboratories and organizations
- Pharmaceutical and medical research firms
- Biotechnology firms
- Plant and animal breeders and growers
- Food processors
- Industrial production and inspection agencies
- Environmental protection organizations
- Federal, state, and local government, such as the Centers for Disease Control
- Colleges and universities

**STRATEGIES**
- Take additional courses in biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, cytology, and physiology.
- Gain additional laboratory and research experience through internships and summer jobs.

**ORGANIC**
- Research
- Development
- Analysis and Testing
- Consulting
- Quality Control

**EMPLOYERS**
- Industries related to petroleum, coal, wood products, plastics, textiles, and food
- Manufacturing firms developing new synthetic materials and new production processes
- Research organizations
- Federal and state government
- Colleges and universities

**STRATEGIES**
- Gain additional laboratory and research experience through internships and summer jobs.
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<td>Research &amp; Development</td>
<td>Water processing plants</td>
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<td>Natural resources organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>INORGANIC</td>
<td>Research laboratories and organizations</td>
<td>Industries involved in mining, electronics, and synthetic materials</td>
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<td>POLYMER CHEMISTRY</td>
<td>Research &amp; Development</td>
<td>Industrial &amp; commercial organizations such as textiles and plastics</td>
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<td>Analysis &amp; Testing</td>
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<td>PHYSICAL</td>
<td>Research laboratories and organizations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Industries involving electrical, nuclear, gas, heat, or light energy</td>
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<td>EDUCATION</td>
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<td>Private and public secondary schools</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>BUSINESS</td>
<td>Manufacturing firms</td>
<td>Take courses in public speaking.</td>
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<td>Technical Sales/Marketing</td>
<td>Drug stores</td>
<td>Obtain a minor in business.</td>
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<td>Pharmaceutical Sales</td>
<td>Develop strong verbal and written communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills.</td>
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<td>Management</td>
<td>Hold leadership positions in campus organizations.</td>
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<td>Banking/Finance</td>
<td>Join related student organizations, e.g., American Marketing Association, Financial Management Association, Public Relations Student Society of America, etc.</td>
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<td>Advertising/Public Relations</td>
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<td>Industrial Quality Control</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research &amp; Development</td>
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</table>
• Undergraduate degree sufficient for entry-level positions such as lab coordinator, research assistant, product testing or analysis, technical sales, or service representative.

• Master's degree sufficient for most applied research positions, industrial work, and some community college teaching.

• Ph.D. degree required for university teaching and advanced positions in management and research and development. Postdoctoral experience is preferred for research positions in industry, universities and government.

• Advanced degrees help speed career advancement.

• Develop strong computer, mathematics and science skills/knowledge.

• Obtain part-time, volunteer, co-op, internship, or summer experience.

• Obtain practical experience using various laboratory equipment and high-tech scientific equipment and data.

• Maintain excellent grades.

• Complete an undergraduate research project.

• Consider electives in computer science, engineering, business, public speaking, and writing.

• Join related student professional organizations.

• Read related professional magazines and journals.

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**AREAS**

**TECHNICAL WRITING**
- Proposals
- Specification Manuals
- Writing
- Editing

**EMPLOYERS**
- Research product development departments and organizations
- Publishing firms including books, scientific and research journals, technical press, large newspapers, and wire services

**STRATEGIES**
- Take advanced technical writing courses.
- Become proficient with word processing and desktop publishing.

**LAW**
- Patent Agents
- Patent Attorneys
- Legislator/Lobbyist

**EMPLOYERS**
- Manufacturing firms
- Research and development firms
- Law firms
- Private practice
- Environmental agencies

**STRATEGIES**
- Obtain law degree to become an attorney.

**INFORMATION SPECIALISTS/TECHNICAL LIBRARIES**
- Special libraries
- Research organizations
- Colleges and universities
- Large manufacturing firms, especially chemicals and pharmaceuticals

**STRATEGIES**
- Obtain master's degree in library and information science.
- Develop computer retrieval skills.
- Join Special Libraries Association, Chemistry Division.

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (1995, Revised 2000) UTK is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA Employer