



CHEMISTRY



- *WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR IN CHEMISTRY?
- *WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE MYSELF MORE MARKETABLE?
- *WHERE CAN I FIND CAREER INFORMATION?

• CAREER PLANNING • SUNY POTSDAM • 106 SISSON
HOMEPAGE: www.potsdam.edu/career TEL: 315-267-2344

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN CHEMISTRY?

1. Teach chemistry at all levels of education.
2. Synthesize new compounds which may be new pharmaceutical drugs, biosensors, catalysts, specialty polymers, etc.
3. Work to solve environmental problems related to waste management, chemical separations, recycling, substitution of environmentally friendly products for hazardous ones, etc.
4. Work in various government research positions in jobs relating to health, industry, and business.

EXAMPLES OF FIELDS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR CHEMISTRY MAJORS:

1. Academia
2. Chemical Companies
3. Pharmaceutical Firms
4. Environmental Organizations
5. Government Laboratories
6. Medical Research Labs
7. Manufacturing
8. Sales of Scientific Equipment
9. Public Health
10. Peace Corps
11. Publishers, Scientific Material

SAMPLE JOB TITLES OF SUNY POTSDAM ALUMNI:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| * College/University Professor | * Environmental Engineer |
| * Research Chemist | * Radiologist |
| * Allergy & Immunologist | * Medical Technologist |
| * Pharmaceutical Research | * Director of Manufacturing |
| * Cytogenetics Lab Technician | * Chemical Engineer |
| * Pharmacist | * Physical Therapist |
| * Product Engineering Supervisor | * Public School Chemistry Teacher |

SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTIONS:

1. College/University Professor: teaches chemistry at graduate and/or undergraduate level and conducts research with students.
2. Research Chemist: works in a government or commercial laboratory. May synthesize new compounds (pharmaceuticals or materials) and characterize the same.
3. Science Lab Technician: performs experiments in a laboratory or in the field. May work in quality control or environmental monitoring and cleanup.
4. Environmental Health Specialist: manages environmental factors that affect public and environmental health. Provides consultations, technical assistance, inspections, and investigations.
5. Radiologist: specializes in use of diagnostic image technology and examines x-rays, radioactive substances. May work in treatment of cancer patients.

ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY:

1. Get involved in the career development process early, *freshman year*.
2. Select minors/elective courses that will demonstrate interest/applicability to your career objective.
3. Participate in a research project with a faculty member during the school year and/or during the summer.
4. Get career related experience: internships, summer and/or part-time employment, volunteer. Join a career related association or organization.
5. Develop the following job search and self-marketing skills: resume and cover letter writing, portfolio development, researching employers, interviewing, networking, and employment searching.
6. Skills to develop: use of scientific instruments, knowledge of software used in chemistry and information science, using scientific knowledge to solve problems in industry, writing and persuasive speaking.

SAMPLE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES:

- * Proctor & Gamble Company
 - Involved in research, development, manufacture, and sale of consumer products in food and beverage, beauty and cosmetics, health care, laundry and cleaning, and pharmaceuticals.
 - Interns work in departments such as brand management, product supply, research and product development.
- * BP (British Petroleum)
 - One of the world's largest petroleum companies; products include oil, gasoline, plastics, high-tech ceramics and basic chemicals.
 - Interns work in development and processing in refineries or chemical plants.
- * Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education
 - Consortium of 50 research facilities with research in many areas of science and education.
 - Interns participate in research projects in fields such as materials science,
- * NSF Sponsored REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates)
 - A program available at colleges and universities around the country.
 - Interns work in a research lab with other undergraduates and graduate students during the summer.

STRATEGIES FOR CONTACTING EMPLOYERS:

- * write an employer targeted resume and cover letter
- * learn job search strategies
- * network
- * use SUNY Potsdam's Career Planning reference books
- * prepare for the interview
- * design a portfolio
- * develop networking cards
- * use SUNY Potsdam's Career Planning Internet Homepage

SOME EMPLOYERS OF SUNY POTSDAM CHEMISTRY ALUMNI:

- * Syracuse University
- * North Carolina State University
- * University of Virginia
- * Canton Central School District
- * Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.
- * Eastman Kodak Co.
- * Kraft General Foods
- * Estee Lauder, Inc
- * Xerox Corporation
- * National Cancer Institute
- * IBM
- * Food and Drug Administration
- * General Electric
- * Northeast Environmental Services

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE:

1. CHEMISTRY DEPT., SUNY Potsdam, Stowell Hall 208

- * talk with faculty

2. CAREER PLANNING CENTER, SUNY Potsdam, 106 Sisson Hall

- * individual career assistance
- * workshops/seminars
- * employer literature
- * SUNYCDO Job Fair
- * computerized assessment programs
- * career testing
- * networking assistance
- * free handouts available
- * Employment Connections
- * Virtual Job Fair
- * job vacancies
- * summer jobs
- * reference file
- * career fairs
- * Career Planning Internet Homepage
- * career library
- * alumni contacts
- * A Major Affair

WHAT IF I WANT TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL?

RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING CENTER:

- * graduate school handout
- * GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT and MAT forms and bulletins
(computerized mock tests and graduate study books)
- * graduate books-schools and programs
- * financial aid information about graduate school
- * Peterson's Graduate Programs (G7F,G,H,I,J,K)

RESOURCES FOR FINDING EMPLOYERS AND CAREER INFORMATION:

RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING CENTER:

- * The Career Guide Employment Opportunities Directory (R8GG)
- * Hoover's Guide to Top New York Companies (R8H)
- * American Hospital Association: Guide to Health Care Field (R17B)
- * New York Manufacturer's Directory (R8FF)
- * Job Opportunities in Science and Engineering (R45D)
- * Peterson's Job Opportunities in the Environment (R14A)
- * Federal Jobs for College Graduates (R16A)
- * Careers in Science (C45C)
- * Physical Science Career Directory (C45D)
- * Great Jobs for Chemistry Majors (45H)
- * Summer Jobs for Students (S2A)
- * Job Opportunities in Health Care (R17A)
- * 2001 Chemical Yellow Pages (45C)
- * Scientific and Technical Organizations & Agencies Directories (R45E, R45F)
- * Career Planning Internet Homepage
- * Additional material found by using Career Planning Library Bibliography

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- * American Chemical Society
1155 16th St., NW
Washington, DC 20005-1155
(202) 872-4600
- * Commissioned Officers Assoc.
1400 I St. NW, Ste. 725
Washington, DC 20036
(703) 243-1301

* National Environmental Health Association
720 S. Colorado Blvd. Suite 970 S. Tower
Denver, CO 80222-1925
(303) 756-9090

* American Medical Technologists
710 Higgins Road
Park Ridge, IL 60068
(708) 823-5169

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