



# 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 • 206 SISSON

Web Site: [www.potsdam.edu/offices/career](http://www.potsdam.edu/offices/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                    | 7. Manufacturing                    |
| 2. Chemical Companies          | 8. Sales of Scientific Equipment    |
| 3. Pharmaceutical Firms        | 9. Public Health                    |
| 4. Environmental Organizations | 10. Hospitals                       |
| 5. Government Laboratories     | 11. Publishers, Scientific Material |
| 6. Medical Research Labs       | 12. Pharmacies                      |

## ***SAMPLE JOB TITLES OF SUNY POTSDAM ALUMNI:***

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

## ***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 investigate the properties, composition and structure of matters as well as 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 or elective courses that will demonstrate interest/applicability to your career objectives.
3. Get career related experience: internships, summer and/or part-time employment, volunteer. Join a career-related association or organization.
4. Develop the following job search and self-marketing skills: resume writing, cover letter writing, create a portfolio and self-marketing brochure, researching employers, interviewing, networking, and employment searching.
5. 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.
- \* National Science Foundation 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.

### ***PREPARING FOR THE JOB SEARCH MARKET***

- \* Write an employer targeted resume and cover letter
- \* Learn job search strategies
- \* Borrow resources from SUNY Potsdam's Career Planning Library
- \* Develop networking cards
- \* Network w/employers at Career/Job Fairs
- \* Prepare for an interview
- \* Design a portfolio and self-marketing brochure
- \* Visit SUNY Potsdam's Career Planning Web Site at: [www.potsdam.edu/offices/career](http://www.potsdam.edu/offices/career)
- \* Seek advice from faculty



***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
- \* Talk with Students
- \* Talk with Alumni

**2. CAREER PLANNING OFFICE, SUNY Potsdam, 206 Sisson Hall**

- \* Individual Career Assistance
- \* Workshops/Seminars
- \* Employer Literature
- \* Career Assessment Programs
- \* Career and Job Fairs
- \* Networking Assistance
- \* Alumni Mentor
- \* Job Vacancies
- \* Summer Jobs
- \* Reference file
- \* Career Planning Web Site
- \* Career Library
- \* A Major Affair
- \* Free Handouts Available

***WHAT IF I WANT TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL?***

**RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:**

- \* On-Campus Graduate School Fair
- \* Graduate School handout
- \* GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT and MAT forms and bulletins (GRE computerized tests and graduate study books)
- \* Graduate books - listings of schools and programs
- \* Financial aid information about graduate school
- \* Peterson's Graduate Programs (G7F, G, H, I, J, K)
- \* Web Site: [www.potsdam.edu/offices/career/graduate](http://www.potsdam.edu/offices/career/graduate)

***RESOURCES FOR FINDING EMPLOYERS & CAREER INFORMATION:***

**RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:**

- \* 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)
- \* Physical Science Career Directory (C45D)
- \* Great Jobs for Chemistry Majors (45H)
- \* Summer Jobs Worldwide (S2A)
- \* Job Opportunities in Health Care (R17A)
- \* Chemical Yellow Pages (R45C)
- \* Career Opportunities in Science (C45C)
- \* Scientific and Technical Organizations & Agencies Directories (R45E, R45F)
- \* Career Planning Job Search Internet Links: [www.potsdam.edu/offices/career/jobsearch/index.cfm](http://www.potsdam.edu/offices/career/jobsearch/index.cfm)
- \* Additional material found by using Career Planning Library Bibliography

**OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**

- \* American Chemical Society  
1155 16<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Washington, DC 20005-1155  
(202) 872-4600  
[www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org)
- \* National Environmental Health Association  
720 S. Colorado Blvd. Suite 970 S. Tower  
Denver, CO 80222-1925  
(303) 756-9090  
[www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org)
- \* Commissioned Officers Assoc.  
1400 I St. NW, Ste. 725  
Washington, DC 20036  
(703) 243-1301  
[www.coausphs.org/](http://www.coausphs.org/)
- \* American Medical Technologists  
710 Higgins Road  
Park Ridge, IL 60068  
(708) 823-5169  
[www.melabs.org](http://www.melabs.org)

