

Dear New Chemistry Major:

## **Welcome to Chemistry!**

Our chemistry major emphasizes independent and collaborative research where students can participate in the creation and dissemination of new knowledge, and where they can integrate and apply the chemical knowledge and skills they learn in their courses in the context of original work. Our goal is to provide you with a depth of chemical knowledge and skills that will prepare you for the next step in your career path, which might involve graduate studies in chemistry or related sciences; professional degrees in health sciences or engineering; advanced degrees in non-science fields such as law or business that can be combined with a chemistry background for careers such as patent law or management in the chemical industry; or proceeding directly to work in areas such as education, industry, government and private research laboratories, or business, for example pharmaceutical sales.

Below we briefly summarize the major and its various options, along with some information about advising in the major.

## **The Major**

Requirements for the major include:

- Foundational courses in physics, mathematics, biology and of course, chemistry!
- Advanced courses in chemistry and related fields that can lead to either an AB or BS degree, along with the opportunity to complete an “emphasis” or a concentration in the major

## **Areas of Emphasis**

Students pursuing an AB Chemistry degree can also choose to pursue an emphasis in the following areas, which incorporate advanced courses related to the emphasis :

- Biology
- Mathematics
- Physics

## **Areas of Concentration**

Students pursuing BS or AB Chemistry degrees can also choose to pursue a concentration in the following areas, which incorporate advanced courses and independent study related to the concentration:

- Pharmacology
- Chemical Biology
- Environmental Chemistry
- Biochemistry

## Introductory Courses

For an introduction to the major and to gain a foundation in the other disciplines that are necessary to understand chemistry, majors need to take courses in physics, mathematics and possibly biology, along with foundational chemistry courses, which depending on your chemistry background would normally start with CHEM 99, 101DL, 110DL or 201DL. More detailed information about all of the possible versions of the chemistry major and the required foundational courses can be found on the undergraduate portion of our website:

<http://chem.duke.edu/undergraduate>

and in our handbook for majors available at:

<http://chem.duke.edu/undergraduate/handbook-majors-and-potential-majors>

## Advising

To help guide you through the major you will have a chemistry faculty member as your academic advisor, who will meet with you each semester during the advising period prior to registration. During these meetings your advisor will review the major requirements to make sure you are on track to complete the major and they can help you choose courses for registration. They can also help you identify research opportunities, prepare for your post-graduate plans, and with any other matters related to the major.

A chemistry advisor will be assigned to you just prior to the first registration period after you officially declare the major with Pre-Major Advising or the Registrar's Office. If you wish to request a specific faculty member as your advisor you can do so by sending an email to the DUS group in chemistry at [dus@chem.duke.edu](mailto:dus@chem.duke.edu). More detailed information about advising and registration will be sent to you prior to the advising period.

If you have questions, feel free to contact us, Dr. Ross A. Widenhoefer, Director of Undergraduate Studies ([ross.widenhoefer@duke.edu](mailto:ross.widenhoefer@duke.edu)) or Dr. Claire J. P. Siburt, Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies ([cps7@duke.edu](mailto:cps7@duke.edu)).

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Sincerely,



Ross A. Widenhoefer  
Director of Undergraduate Studies -  
Chemistry



Claire J. P. Siburt  
Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies -  
Chemistry