

CHEMISTRY (MINOR)

Program Description

Chemistry is the study of the world of molecules: how they are created from atoms, how their structures affect their chemical and physical properties, and how they unite or assemble to form the matter that makes up the physical world. Knowledge of chemistry is fundamental to an in-depth understanding of the structural properties and biochemical reactions that define all living systems. Chemistry is therefore the central science that bridges physics and the life sciences, and is a foundation to many other fields, such as materials science, earth science, and forensic science. The challenges that society faces in the twenty-first century, such as managing climate change, sourcing clean energy, and ensuring food security, are at their root chemical problems. With a global perspective and a broad science curriculum at its core, our chemistry major program gives students a comprehensive outlook necessary to tackle these challenges.

A key characteristic of the chemistry major at NYU Shanghai is a good balance between depth and breadth of study: following the foundational science courses in chemistry and physics, students take the essential “canon” of organic chemistry and physical chemistry lectures and labs. Students then have flexibility in choosing three or more chemistry electives in areas of specialization that interest them, including Inorganic Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Computational Chemistry, and Biochemistry courses. A distinguishing feature of chemistry is the importance of creativity, whether it be in synthesizing new molecules, discovering novel reactions and materials, or developing new theories of matter. All chemistry students undertake a research or literature review project during their senior year in an Integrate Science Capstone course. Students who are pursuing careers in academic or industrial research are encouraged to undertake two or more semesters of research with faculty, potentially culminating in an undergraduate thesis and chemistry honors.

Majoring in chemistry provides good preparation for graduate study in chemistry and related fields, such as biochemistry, biomedicine, and materials science. Chemistry major students are also well prepared for professional school, including medical, pharmacy, dental, optometry, veterinary, forensic, and law school. Students who, instead, decide to enter industry after graduation are well-served by the combination of creative and quantitative skills developed in the chemistry major that transfer to diverse sectors from data science to biotechnology to finance.

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
CHEM-SHU 125	Foundations of Chemistry I	3
CHEM-SHU 126	Foundations of Chemistry II	3
CHEM-SHU 127	Foundations of Chemistry I Lab	2
CHEM-SHU 128	Foundations of Chemistry II Lab	2
CHEM-SHU 225 & 225L	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry I Lab	5
CHEM-SHU 226 & 226L	Organic Chemistry II and Organic Chemistry II Lab	5
Total Credits		20

Policies

Minor Policies

Students may minor in subjects outside of their major. A minor in a secondary subject enables a student to acquire a useful understanding of concepts and analysis without the same degree of coverage as would be obtained in a major. A grade of C or better is required for a course to be counted toward a minor. If a student fails a course required for the minor, the course must be retaken at NYU; a course taken outside the University will not normally be allowed to substitute for a minor requirement. No course for the minor may be taken as pass/fail. Students may use Core Curriculum classes to fill minor requirements but at least 12 credits of the minor must be unique to the minor, meaning that it is not double-counted with any other major, minor, or core requirement.

Additionally, no single course may be used to meet more than two requirements.

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

NYU Shanghai Policies

Additional academic policies can be found on the NYU Shanghai Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/shanghai/academic-policies/>).