

# CAREER INFORMATION FOR CHEMISTRY MAJORS

It is important to understand that employers hire people, not degrees. The skills and knowledge you develop as a result of your education, as well as in your work and community activities, have the greatest impact on hiring decisions. Listed below are some key skills and knowledge you will acquire as a result of your university education and your focus on Chemistry.

## ***SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE SKILLS***

- Knowledge of chemical properties related to environmental concerns and health/safety protocols
- Skills in testing materials and products to determine potential concerns, reactions and interactions
- Ability to make critical observations of environmental and chemical interactions
- Awareness of and sensitivity to the health and safety of products, materials and the environment
- The ability to plan, conduct, document and clearly explain and present scientific research to members of both the scientific community and/or the public
- Knowledge of laboratory techniques for studying chemical processes and reactions
- An understanding of reactions and interactions of chemicals and chemical products and the ability to use this knowledge to locate and explain potential reactions and hazards
- The ability to anticipate potential negative consequences of chemical and environmental incidents and the knowledge to plan for, minimize and manage the impact of these incidents

*Regardless of your major, a university education enables you to develop a wide range of valuable 'transferable skills'. It is often because of these 'transferable skills' that employers seek university graduates.*

## ***VALUABLE TRANSFERABLE SKILLS***

### **Information-gathering and Communication Skills**

- The skills required to identify and access a wide range of relevant information and resources
- The ability to compile and organize facts and information and to comprehend and apply new and/or unfamiliar information to different situations and settings
- Skills in preparing interesting, creative and informative presentations which target diverse audiences
- The ability to develop effective reports, presentations and materials using current technology

### **Thinking, Planning and Organizational Skills**

- The ability to learn, understand and interpret information and apply your knowledge to new situations
- The ability to set priorities, meet deadlines and effectively plan/manage time, data and resources
- Problem-solving skills and the ability to make well-reasoned decisions, think creatively and search for, identify and consider all sides of an issue
- Skills to effectively analyze and interpret a wide range of information and data to discuss, support and/or reject ideas, opinions, reports, theories and proposals

### **Teamwork and Management Skills**

- Skills enabling you to work effectively as part of the team by identifying your role in the team and contributing to the team through leading, teaching, motivating and/or encouraging others as required
- An understanding of how to successfully identify, plan and contribute to the goals of a team/project
- The ability to oversee, supervise and/or contribute to a project from beginning to end including determining outcomes, planning details, making decisions, assigning roles and completing tasks

# SOME CAREER OPTIONS FOR CHEMISTRY MAJORS

- ✓ Toxicologist
- ✓ Analytic Chemist
- ✓ Aerosol Developer
- ✓ Clinical Technician
- ✓ Laboratory Technician
- ✓ Information Scientist
- ✓ Inorganic Chemist
- ✓ Fragrance Developer
- ✓ Agriculture Manager
- ✓ Tool and Die Maker
- ✓ Colour Analyst
- ✓ Optometrist
- ✓ Laboratory Analyst
- ✓ Radiologist
- ✓ Soil Tester
- ✓ Medical Librarian
- ✓ Conservator/Restorer
- ✓ Water Quality Analyst/Technician
- ✓ Pharmacist/Pharmacologist
- ✓ Chemical Information Specialist
- ✓ Consumer Protection Researcher
- ✓ Chemical Analyst/Technologist
- ✓ Environmental Impact Assessor
- ✓ Chemical/Drug Sales Representative
- ✓ Medical Laboratory Technician
- ✓ Occupational Health/Safety Officer
- ✓ Organic Mass Spectrometrist
- ✓ Paint Formulation Chemist
- ✓ Methods Development Chemist
- ✓ Materials Production Tester
- ✓ Cosmetics Developer
- ✓ Police Crime Scene Investigator
- ✓ Technical Sales Representative
- ✓ Film Developer/Tester
- ✓ Food and Drug Analyst
- ✓ Forensic Lab Analyst
- ✓ Product Tester/Developer
- ✓ Chemical Safety Officer
- ✓ Information Analyst
- ✓ Industrial Health Engineer
- ✓ Pollution Controller/Analyst
- ✓ Paper Product Developer
- ✓ Prosthetics Developer
- ✓ Pest Control Technician
- ✓ Special Effects Co-ordinator
- ✓ Public Health Educator
- ✓ Industrial Quality Control
- ✓ Food Scientist/Technician
- ✓ Fabric/Textile Developer
- ✓ Building/Site Inspector
- ✓ Health Care Professional

## Potential Employers

- ✓ Health Protection Agencies
- ✓ Hospital Research Labs
- ✓ Industrial Laboratories
- ✓ Biotechnology Industry
- ✓ Cosmetic Companies
- ✓ Chemistry Consulting Firms
- ✓ Research Centres/Institutes
- ✓ Police/Forensics Labs
- ✓ Technical Libraries
- ✓ Environmental Firms
- ✓ Quality Control Labs
- ✓ Pharmaceutical Industry
- ✓ Mineral/Metal Industries
- ✓ Entertainment Industry
- ✓ Utility Companies
- ✓ Mining Companies
- ✓ Textile Manufacturers
- ✓ Agricultural Companies
- ✓ Aerospace Companies
- ✓ Museums/Archives
- ✓ Waterworks Departments
- ✓ Food and Beverage Companies
- ✓ Waste Management Corporations
- ✓ Chemical Testing Companies
- ✓ Chemical Distributors
- ✓ Oil/Petroleum Refineries
- ✓ Newspapers/Magazines
- ✓ Special Effects Departments
- ✓ Chemical Manufacturing Plants
- ✓ Distilleries and Breweries

## Websites

- ✓ The Chemical Institute of Canada [www.chemistry.ca/](http://www.chemistry.ca/)
- ✓ Biotechnology Human Resource Council [www.bhrc.ca/](http://www.bhrc.ca/)
- ✓ North American Alliance of Chemical Engineers [www.naache.org/](http://www.naache.org/)
- ✓ Association of the Chemical Profession of Ontario [www.acpo.on.ca/](http://www.acpo.on.ca/)
- ✓ Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories [www.caeal.ca/](http://www.caeal.ca/)
- ✓ American Chemical Society [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org)
- ✓ Science Careers [www.sciencecareers.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencecareers.sciencemag.org)
- ✓ Chemical & Engineering News-Chem Jobs [www.jobspectrum.org/](http://www.jobspectrum.org/)
- ✓ EarthWorks Jobs [www.earthworks-jobs.com/](http://www.earthworks-jobs.com/)