

# What can you do with a major in *CHEMISTRY?*

## Nature of Work

*Chemistry* involves the search for and practical use of new knowledge about chemicals. Chemists develop new and improved synthetic fibers, paints, drugs, and many other products. They develop processes that save energy and reduce pollution. They do research on the chemistry of living things to provide the basis for advances in medicine, agriculture, and other areas. They work in clinical laboratories testing for drugs or in health diagnosis and treatment. They work in production and inspection in chemical plants. They prepare instructions that specify the ingredients, mixing times, and temperatures for each stage in the process, monitor automated processes, and test samples. There are generally four subfields:

- **Analytical Chemistry:** determining the composition of substances.
- **Organic Chemistry:** involves the properties and reactions of compounds containing carbon.
- **Inorganic Chemistry:** involves the properties and reactions of all other elements which do not contain carbon.
- **Physical Chemistry:** concerned with the role of energy transformations in reactions.

## Personal Qualities

Helpful qualities for individuals who seek to incorporate their *Chemistry* major in a career include:

- curiosity and perseverance
- an ability to work independently
- an ability to communicate well in speech and in writing
- enjoyment in building scientific apparatus and performing experiments
- an ability to concentrate on details
- scientific and mathematical aptitude

## Work Settings

Students who majored in *Chemistry* work in various settings including the following:

*Laboratories, colleges and universities, health care facilities, public and private research organizations, pharmaceutical manufacturers, industrial and health safety departments*

## Related Occupations

*Pharmacist, Environmental Scientist, Soil Scientist, Chemical Engineer*

## Career Services Resources

The following books are available for students in the Career Services Library:

- *Great Jobs for Chemistry Majors*
- *Opportunities in Pharmacy Careers*
- *Opportunities in Chemistry Careers*
- *Careers in Science*

## For More Information Contact

**American Association for Clinical Chemistry**  
1850 K Street NW, Suite 625  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 857-0717  
www.aacc.org

**American Chemical Society**  
1155 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 872-4600  
www.chemistry.org

**American Institute of Chemists**  
315 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2702  
(215) 873-8224  
www.theaic.org

# A Sample of Ithaca College Chemistry Graduates

One method of exploring careers is to examine the occupations of alumni who majored in a discipline in which you may be interested.

Below is a representative sample of occupations held by Ithaca College alumni who majored in Chemistry.

Patent Agent	Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz	Wilmington, DE
Chemist	SAIC (Science Applications Inter. Corp)	Abingdon, MD
Program Manager	Aspen AeRogels	Northborough, MA
Research Assistant	Brigham Hospital	Boston, MA
Research Chemist	Albany Molecular Research, Inc.	Albany, NY
Assistant Professor	Ithaca College	Ithaca, NY
Chemical Engineer	North Atlantic Energy Services Corporation	Seabrook, NH
Quality Control Technician	Corning Incorporated	Corning, NY
Chemist - QC	Par Pharmaceutical	Spring Valley, NY
Sales Representative	Fisher Scientific Company	Pittsburgh, PA
Graduate Assistant	Michigan State University, Chemistry Department	E. Lansing, MI
Sales Territory Manager	Burron Medical, Inc.	Bethlehem, PA
Process Engineer	Rodel, Inc.	Newark, DE
Post Doctoral Associate	Michigan State University, Chemistry Department	E. Lansing, MI
Production Manager	BASF Corporation (Plant Management Products Mfg.)	Huntington, WV
Education Specialist	National Museum of American History	Washington, DC
Patent Attorney	Procter & Gamble	Cincinnati, OH
Product Specialist/Sales	Analect Instruments	Whitesboro, NY
President	Arrow Analytical, Inc.	Barton, NY
Pharmaceutical Salesman	Pfizer Pharmaceuticals	San Antonio, TX
Senior Chemist	Westinghouse Savannah River Co.	Aiken, SC
Farm Manager	Maple Dream Farm (Agricultural Production/Service)	Greene, NY
Biochemist	Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Lab.	Rahway, NJ
Physician	Lahey Clinic	Burlington, MA
Periodontist/Prosthodontist	Self-employed	Unadilla, NY
Anesthesiologist/Partner	Abington Anesthesia Associates, Ltd.	Abington, PA