

Chemistry Department F.A.Q.'s

Q. What degree options are offered through the Chemistry Department?

A.

- B.A. Chemistry
- B.A. Chemistry: Biochemistry
- B.A. Teaching in Chemistry
- B.A. / M.A. Chemistry

<http://www.bu.edu/chemistry/undergrad/requirements/>

Q. What's the difference between the B.A. in Chemistry and the BMB program?

A. The Chemistry department offers a BA in Chemistry: Biochemistry, which requires completion of the Chemistry requirements plus a few additional biology courses. There is also the BMB (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology) degree, which falls between the Chemistry and (and mainly) Biology departments and has a more biological focus. If you are thinking about switching between Chemistry and BMB make sure Math 123 and 124 is taken rather than Math 121 and 122.

BA Chemistry: Biochemistry:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/programs/chemistry/ba-biochemistry/>

BA BMB:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/programs/biochemistry-molecular-biology-biotechnology/ba/>

Q. Why are Chemistry degrees awarded as BA instead of BS?

A. CAS, the College of Arts and Science, was previously known as the College of Liberal Arts. The BA was carried over from that time. The only college in BU to offer the BS is the College of Engineering. Nonetheless the BA in Chemistry is a rigorous degree program comparable to a BS at other universities.

Q. How do Chemistry AP credits apply to the Chemistry Degree?

A. Students coming in with AP chemistry credits can receive credit for CAS CH 101 and CH 102 (our basic general chemistry) and need to take an additional analytical lab course (CH 201) to supplement those courses. For Majors in Chemistry, we prefer you to take a higher level of general chemistry sequence (such as CH 109 and CH 110, or CH 111 and CH 112), as the AP exam does not cover all of the information taught in these courses.

Q. How do Calculus AP credits apply towards the Chemistry Degree?

A. The Chemistry program has a math requirement of 2 semesters of calculus (MA 123 & MA 124) and 1 semester of multivariate calculus (MA 225). A score of 4 or 5 on the Calculus AB exam can exempt you from MA 123. A score of 4 or 5 on the calculus BC exam can exempt you from both MA 123 and MA 124. Only students who have a strong calculus foundation are encouraged to go directly into MA 225.

Q. Can I do Undergraduate Research?

A. YES! Many of our students begin research after their sophomore year, with some also starting earlier. Only very motivated and advanced freshmen will carry out research but most research labs require at least completion of general chemistry.

<http://www.bu.edu/chemistry/undergrad/research/>

Q. How do I start Undergraduate Research?

A. We encourage our students to seek out faculty whose research interests them and ask about availability in their labs. Together, the research faculty and student come up with their requirements and expectations for the semester. Students who want to get some initial research experience may register for 2 credits while other students who want to commit more time may register for 4 credits, after finding a research group.

Q. What is a typical freshmen schedule like?

A.

1st semester:

CH 109
MA 123
WR 100
Language

2nd semester:

CH 110*
MA 124**
WR 150*
Language***

* If CH 111 and CH 112 are taken instead of CH 109 and CH 110, then WR 150 is completed through this course and does not need to be taken.

** Depending on AP math credits, students may either take MA 124 in the first semester and MA 225 in the second, or MA 225 in the first semester.

*** If a student speaks another language they are exempt from the CAS language requirement after they have taken a proficiency exam. AP scores can also provide a language requirement exemption. Other CAS requirements such as humanities or social science can be.

Q. How large are chemistry classes for freshmen?

A. That depends on the course and course component. Our intensive general chemistry course (CH 111 and CH 112) has about 60 students, where as the basic general chemistry courses can have 150+ students. All lab courses have a lecture, pre-lab, lab, and discussion section. The labs and discussion sections are generally only 20 students with a PhD student as a teaching fellow.

Q. How do I find a Chemistry Advisor?

A chemistry academic advisor will be assigned to you once you have declared your chemistry major. You may approach any chemistry faculty member and ask if they would be willing to serve as your academic advisor. If they are able to serve in such a role, inform Miss Julia Jesielowski (jajesi@bu.edu) in the chemistry office. As such, and after confirming with the faculty member, your advisor will be set.

Alternatively, if you are unable to locate a chemistry advisor, contact Julia and a chemistry advisor will then be found for you.