



CAREERS IN CHEMISTRY:
BUSINESS AND LAW



Why study chemistry if I want to do business?

You've probably heard the old adage, "It's not what you know, it's who you know." If you really believe that, why are you in college? Companies want skills, and a knowledge of science is a competitive edge that can get you a high-paying job and a spot on the fast track.

Who wants a chemist without a lab coat?

Where do chemists work if they don't want to mix chemicals? The most likely candidates would be chemical, pharmaceutical and manufacturing companies, as they need people with a science background to handle sales and marketing. And those same skills can move you up the corporate ladder, because companies that rely on technology need managers who understand it. A chemistry degree closes few doors and opens many.

Planning Your Studies

The Department of Chemistry offers both BS and BA degrees, and either are excellent preparation for businesspeople. Students can double major with one of the business degrees offered by the Economics Department, or take a minor in a business field. But a formal major or minor is not necessary, and a list of recommended courses is given below. Students should also look for internship opportunities to gain additional experience; contact the Magner Center for Career Development for help.

Students should also think about going on for a Masters of Business Administration (MBA). Chemistry students leave college with the math background needed to apply to an MBA program, and no other courses are required. Many employers will pay employees' tuition while they are working, and the MBA can be a ticket to the upper echelons of management. Interested students should discuss it with the advisor for the Department of Economics (see last page).

Recommended courses for students interested in business:

Economics 2100: Elementary Macroeconomics

Accounting 2001: Introductory Accounting

Business 3200: Introduction to Management

Business 3100: Principles of Marketing Management

or Business 3240: Human Resource Management

Business 3310: Corporation Financial Management

Why study chemistry if I want to be a lawyer?

Check the headlines. The questions surrounding stem cells, cloned farm animals and greenhouse gas emissions demand answers from people who understand law, public policy and science. Do you want to be one of them? And the link between a great idea and a new product has as much to do with patent law as engineering. You can be that link.

Who wants a lawyer who owns safety goggles?

The most obvious role for a chemist is in patent law. *Patent attorneys* need a technical background and must either pass a rigorous examination or earn a degree in the natural sciences or engineering. Any company that develops new products needs a patent lawyer to protect them. Consider this: By most estimates, it takes close to \$1 billion to bring a new medicine to market. What company would invest that money if they couldn't patent it to guarantee their return? No cure for cancer will reach the market without a patent lawyer there to protect it.

Environmental law is a growing field, in which lawyers must bridge the gap between scientific and legal evidence to establish the responsibility for a problem. And there are many roles for chemists as *lobbyists* or *government workers*, who must help form and implement policies on scientific issues. Nor is it just business and government who need this help – Groups ranging from the U.S. Public Interest Research Group to the National Association of Evangelicals have taken a stand on issues like global warming and pollution, and need sharp scientific and legal minds to advance their causes. A well-written brief can change the world as profoundly as any scientific discovery.

Planning Your Studies

A chemistry degree can be an advantage in applying to law schools, as it gives you skills many other majors will not have. You will need to take some courses in other areas to prepare for professional school; you should consult with the campus pre-law advisor as to the best choices based on your interests and proposed field of study.

For additional information on Chemistry and Business see:

American Chemical Society: Career Descriptions

<http://acswebcontent.acs.org/careers/descriptions.html>

“Careers for Chemists: A World Outside the Lab,” F. Owens,
R. Uhler and C. Marasco, American Chemical Society,
Washington DC 1997 (in BC library)

For more information on preparing for a career in business, students should contact the Department of Finance and Business Management.
(718) 951-5154 Room 218 Whitehead

“Being a good chemist is critical to being a good [Research and Development] manager...that’s just the entry card to a career in management.” - Bill Huffman, Director of Medicinal Chemistry, SmithKline Beecham.

Want more?

The Department of Chemistry has a “Chemistry Careers” folder in the main office (359 NE). Stop by and ask the secretary to let you take a look!

For additional information on Chemistry and Law see:

American Intellectual Property Law Association (<http://www.aipla.org>)

Environmental Law Institute (<http://www.eli.org>)

“Careers for Chemists: A World Outside the Lab,” F. Owens,
R. Uhler and C. Marasco, American Chemical Society,
Washington DC 1997 (in BC library)

For more information on preparing for a career in law, students should contact the Magner Career Center (x5696) and ask to speak to the pre-law early career counselor.

To discuss a Chemistry Major:

Contact the Chemistry Department

Voice: (718) 951-5458 Room 359NE

Ask to speak to the Department Advisor.