What Can I Do with a Degree in Chemistry?

*Courtesy of SFU Career Services*

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Examples of Chemistry major careers, including careers that may require further education beyond a bachelor’s degree:

1.) *Nano Technology Researcher*
   - Manipulate atoms and subatomic particles. They are able to arrange single atoms with such precision that the end result is a tiny functioning product. Nanotech theory maintains that the ability to move subatomic particles will enable scientists to change dirt into food and sick cells into healthy cells. Work for universities and large corporations.

2.) *Pathology Assistant*
   - Performs routine technical tasks that a pathologist doesn’t have time for. Duties include dissecting surgical specimens, performing autopsies under the supervision of a pathologist and photographing microscopic tissue sections and organs. Other duties may include morgue administration, supervision of related personnel and documentation maintenance.

3.) *Soil Scientist*
   - Study the chemical, physical and biological properties of soils. They research anything from global topics like climate change or acid rain to local issues like well contamination. Soil scientists work in a variety of environments: labs, offices and the field. They work for governments, agricultural co-ops, fertilizer producers, forest companies, environmental consulting companies, mining companies, colleges and universities.

4.) *Regulatory Affairs Associate*
   - Help develop new drugs and other products. Then prepare documents on the products and submit them to a regulatory agency. They must understand how the different agencies work by keeping up with changing regulations. It is also important to know about chemistry, pharmacology and toxicology as well as manufacturing, quality control and advertising.

5.) *Chemical Technician*
   - Help set up and conduct chemical experiments. Operate lab equipment and prepare solutions as well as conduct quality assurance tests. Work with chemists and chemical engineers to deliver products. They are also involved with research, testing and
lab work. Chemical technicians have to know more than just chemistry, they also need an understanding of microbiology and industrial processes.

6.) **Industrial Chemist**
   - Use their knowledge of applied science to invent, develop and test chemical manufacturing processes and products. Experts on the chemical make-up and behaviour of substances. This field is different than other forms of chemistry because the focus is on development, not research. Work closely with engineers and technicians to create and test their creations, which means a lot of trouble-shooting to ensure the product is safe and effective before it hits the manufacturing floor.

7.) **Marine Chemist**
   - Marine chemists combine their expertise in chemistry with an interest in marine environments. They study and analyze the chemistry of the world’s ocean and freshwater environments. Their work, sometimes called chemical oceanography or marine geochemistry, could involve determining how fast the polar icecaps are melting or how pollution affects ocean life.

8.) **Perfumer**
   - Design the scents in products to ensure household products like skin cream, glass cleaner, candles and even kitty litter are pleasing to the nose. They also design fine perfumes, which is part art and part science. Combining scents in unique and exciting ways takes the creativity of an artist and the knowledge of a chemist.

9.) **Pharmacist**
   - Check patients’ medical histories to make sure that patients are not allergic to the medication and are not taking any drugs that might interfere with their new prescriptions. Warn customers of possible side effects and answer any questions. If any serious problems arises they should be able to identify the nature of the problem and decide how to deal with it. This requires an in-depth knowledge of chemistry, biology and medicine. Pharmacists are expected to know all the answers or at least where to look them up.