

What's the difference between Chemistry – Sciences & Letters and Specialized Curriculum Chemistry?

Use this guide, along with the degree plans for the two curricula, to help you think about whether Chemistry – Sciences & Letters (Chem – S&L) or Specialized Curriculum Chemistry (Spec Chem) aligns best with your interests, abilities, and goals.

I. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

	Chem – S&L	Spec Chem
Awards a Bachelor of Science degree	X (BSLAS w/a major in Chemistry)	X (BS in Chemistry)
Students must take at least 3 semesters of Calculus (MATH 220/221, 231, & 241)	X	X
Students must take either CHEM 202-205 OR CHEM 102-105 + CHEM 222 & 223		X
Students must take additional Math (Differential Equations & Matrix Theory or Linear Algebra)		X
Students must take 3 semesters of Calculus-based Physics (PHYS 211, 212, & 214)		X
Students must take several in-depth Chemistry labs beyond Organic Chemistry I lab		X
Undergraduate research highly recommended (may help to reduce lab requirements)		X
Curriculum is flexible enough to allow for a double major or dual degree	X	*

* Students who want to complete Spec Chem with another major, even if it's another major in LAS, must complete a dual degree and complete at least 30 credit hours more than the minimum required for the degree (usually at least 150 hours). It is possible to complete a dual degree with Spec Chem, but it may be challenging to complete in 4 years (8 semesters).

II. WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS/PLANS?

Think about your ultimate goal as a Chemistry major – why did you choose this major? What do you hope to do when you graduate? We've highlighted some common goals below and indicated which of the two degrees (Sciences & Letters or Specialized Curriculum) are **best** suited to that goal.

	Chem – S&L	Spec Chem
My main goal is to attend a professional school: medical, pharmacy, law, or other <i>professional</i> program	X	
I'd like to teach Chemistry or another science at the high school (or lower) level	X	
I'd like to teach Chemistry at the college level	*	X
I'd like to complete a PhD in Chemistry or another science	*	X
I'm interested in going into research and design in pharmaceuticals or another Chemistry field	X **	X
I'd like to work in an industry related to Chemistry – technical sales, environmental regulation, consulting, etc.	X	X **
I'm very interested in completing a second major or multiple minors	X	

* Students who want to complete a PhD in Chemistry or another field *are* eligible for programs if they've completed the Chemistry – Sciences & Letters degree. However, such students should have significant research experience in Chemistry (or related field), strong grades, and a strong science and math background. It is possible for students in Chem S&L to take more in depth Math, Physics, and Chemistry coursework as long as they've met course pre-requisites.

** *Many employers are NOT aware of the difference between the Chem S&L and Spec Chem degrees and do not have preference for one over another.* What matters most are the experiences you've had as an undergraduate – whether that's research, additional Chemistry labs, or internships. Our recommendations for whether a student should pursue a degree in Chem S&L or Spec Chem will vary based on the student's skills, interests, and degree timeline.