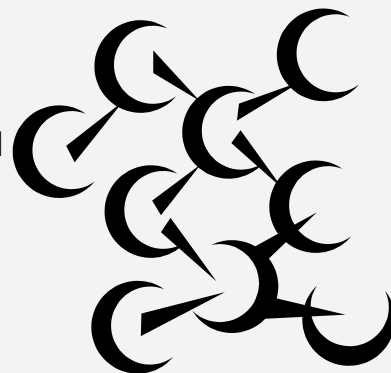


# Florida Institute of Technology– Career Management Services

## Career Profile: Chemistry

Chemists and materials scientists search for and use new knowledge about chemicals. Chemical research has led to the discovery and development of new and improved synthetic fibers, paints, adhesives, drugs, cosmetics, electronic components, lubricants, and thousands of other products. Chemists and materials scientists also develop processes such as improved oil refining and petrochemical processing that save energy and reduce pollution. Applications of materials science include studies of superconducting materials, graphite materials, integrated-circuit chips, and fuel cells.



Chemists often specialize. Analytical chemists determine the structure, composition, and nature of substances by examining and identifying their various elements or compounds. Organic chemists study the chemistry of the vast number of carbon compounds that make up all living things. Inorganic chemists study compounds consisting mainly of elements other than carbon, such as those in electronic components.

Physical and theoretical chemists study the physical characteristics of atoms and molecules and the theoretical properties of matter; and they investigate how chemical reactions work. Their research may result in new and better energy sources. Macromolecular chemists study the behavior of atoms and molecules. Medicinal chemists study the structural properties of compounds intended for applications to human medicine. Materials chemists study and develop new materials to improve existing products or make new ones.

Chemists and materials scientists usually work regular hours in offices and laboratories. Chemists do some of their work in a chemical plant or outdoors. Chemists typically work regular hours. A 40-hour workweek is usual, but longer hours are not uncommon.

A bachelor's degree in chemistry or a related discipline is the minimum educational requirement; many research jobs require a master's degree or, more often, a Ph.D.

The average annual starting salary offer for bachelor's degree Chemistry majors is: \$44,800. The average annual starting salary offer for a doctorate in Chemistry is: \$67,000. At the doctoral level the average starting salary is: \$82,045.

---

**For more information on a career in Chemistry contact the Career Management Services Office or your academic advisor.**

Sources: Occupational Outlook Handbook, Bureau of Labor Statistics [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)  
National Association of Colleges and Employers Salary Survey: Winter 2011



Office of Career Management Services  
150 W. University Blvd. Keuper Building, Rm 210 Melbourne, FL 32901  
Phone: (321) 674-8102 Fax: (321) 674-8065  
Website: [fit.edu/career](http://fit.edu/career) Email: [career@fit.edu](mailto:career@fit.edu)

