

Department of Chemistry FAQs

1. What can I do with a St. Thomas Chemistry major?

Chemistry is a very versatile major that teaches you the fundamental makeup of all living and non-living things in the world. It's why chemistry is used in everything and now it's essential in any learning or post-graduate paths, including medicine and other health sciences. The St. Thomas chemistry degree will train you to design and build molecules as well as understand how they work in the environment. It's a broad base of knowledge that can be used in many different work settings such as graduate school or post-graduate professional school in medicine, pharmacy, etc., or in the environmental, energy, and sustainability sectors. The degree also provides a strong foundation for careers in sustainability and pharmaceutical industries.

2. Should I start chemistry my first semester at St. Thomas?

Starting chemistry your first semester is the best way to complete your four-year plan. If you start chemistry your first semester, you will have a better understanding of the material and be able to take more advanced chemistry courses. If you do not take chemistry right away, it may be challenging to complete your degree in four years. Many post-graduate programs require you to reach a certain level of chemistry before applying. Delaying the start of your chemistry may require that you delay applications later in your academic career. If you have concerns about starting right away, be sure to reach out to your faculty advisor or [Academic Counseling](#) for additional guidance.

3. Does Chemistry have placement exams?

Chemistry has a placement exam that determines whether students should register for CHEM 110, CHEM 111, or CHEM 115. Students should take this as soon as they are able to avoid registration delays.

- CHEM 115 - Accelerated General Chemistry - This course blends the essentials of General Chemistry into an accelerated semester.
- CHEM 111/112 - General Chemistry I and II - The traditional two-semester sequence.
- CHEM 110 - Introductory Chemistry - This course is a 1-credit online course to ensure that they are better prepared to provide foundational chemistry skills to succeed.

4. Is there an opportunity to fund research in a summer research grant?

The University's undergraduate research and chemistry department has a strong record providing students with hands-on experience. Research is a great way to expand your learning and retain what you have learned by putting it into practice. We have one of the largest and most diverse chemistry research programs in the state with projects that span the full discipline from renewable plastics to drugs and drug delivery. Faculty work with students throughout the year on cutting-edge research that leads to presentations at national meetings or publications in peer-reviewed research journals.

There is a formal application procedure for summer positions. Applications are available on the [Chemistry Department](#) website at the end of fall semester. You are encouraged to contact faculty individually at any time of the year and can begin working any time. In most cases,

5. Can I study abroad if I am a chemistry major?

Yes! Studying abroad is a great idea for all majors and can be worked into your four-year plan. Planning ahead will ensure that any classes you take will transfer back to St. Thomas. The University also sponsors its own study abroad experiences, several of which include chemistry. One fantastic opportunity for students taking chemistry is Organic Chemistry, CHEM 201, in Rome, Italy as part of the [Rome Empower Program](#). Students live in Rome and take chemistry as well as several core classes with St. Thomas. Other study abroad opportunities are likely to be offered. Studying abroad is one of your goals.

6. I have taken an AP Chemistry course and earned credit for CHEM 111. What

can I do next? Contact with the section coordinator, email [mav@stthomas.edu](#) or call 763-286-2222. AP Chemistry students with advanced placement credit for CHEM 111 are offered in Spring semester.

Students can complete their general chemistry requirement one semester early and get involved in the [Advanced Chemistry Program](#) right away. CHEM 115 also has the added benefit of counting toward the requirements of the [Assisi Scholars Honors Program](#), whether you are an incoming member or choose to join in your first year.

Contact