

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHEMISTRY

The Chemistry Department engages students in the science of the molecules—what they are, how they are made, and what they do. Research in the department spans organic and inorganic nanomaterials, new recyclable polymers, the molecular basis of neurodegenerative diseases, understanding the structures and dynamics of proteins, the development of biofuels, the development of new therapeutic and diagnostic drugs, and computational approaches to complex chemical systems.

The Chemistry department offers graduate work leading to the degree of Master of Arts through the BA/MA program. The department may also grant the degree of Master of Arts to students in the chemistry PhD program who do not complete the PhD.

Candidates for the BA/MA in Chemistry will follow a program with a strong research orientation that includes coursework, seminars, and, in some cases, teaching. Prospective students should declare their interest early enough in their undergraduate careers to permit the design of an acceptable program. Students are encouraged to begin research no later than their junior year. Admission to the BA/MA program is competitive and based on academic transcripts, faculty recommendations, and previous research experience. Students apply in their senior year and must complete the master's degree requirements in one additional post-baccalaureate year. The MA year is tuition-free and financial aid may be available for eligible students.

MA in Chemistry candidates must earn a minimum of six credits toward the MA degree. This must include at least two credits of advanced research, at least two credits in chemistry elective courses at the 300-level or higher, two semesters of upper-level seminars, and two semesters of the departmental colloquium. There are no teaching requirements. Candidates will submit a master's thesis describing their research and give a public presentation during the Advanced Research Seminar.

COURSES

Students in either the BA/MA program or a terminating PhD program are required to earn a minimum of 6.0 credits in order to fulfill the requirements of the master's degree. The minimum 6.0 required credits must include at least 2.0 total credits of advanced research, at least two 1.0 credit chemistry elective courses at the 300-level or higher, two semesters of upper-level seminars (CHEM547/548 or CHEM571), and two semesters of the departmental colloquium (CHEM521). Students may petition to have one or more advanced elective courses from other departments count toward the 300-level chemistry elective requirement.

All degree-seeking graduate students are required to register for at least one credit in each semester that they are enrolled in the University.

PROGRESS AND QUALIFYING EXAMS

Students in the BA/MA program or a terminating PhD program are not required to take the progress examinations required of PhD candidates.

TEACHING

Teaching is not required as part of the BA/MA program, however many students in the BA/MA program choose to contribute to the department to build their pedagogical skills as teaching assistants. Students in a terminated PhD program have the same teaching responsibilities as those in the PhD program.

RESEARCH

Students in both the BA/MA and terminated PhD programs are required to enroll in 1.0 credits of advanced research each semester.

THESIS AND DEFENSE

An oral defense of the master's thesis before a faculty committee is required for successful completion of the master's degree for both BA/MA and terminating PhD students. An open public defense is not required for the Master of Arts degree.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please visit https://www.wesleyan.edu/grad/graduate-programs/bama_program.html