Pursuing a Chemistry Degree

The guide below is designed to help you explore your academic interests in chemistry and to ensure that graduates have appropriate preparation for employment or graduate school in chemistry or related fields. If you are interested in pursuing a health profession, please refer to the resources provided by The Office of Academic Advising.

First Year	Second Year
● Plan a tentative course of study with your Divisional Advisor and/or Major Advisor. ● Take at least one CHEM course, in addition to the required MATH and PHYS courses. ● Try to attend a meal, reception, or seminar to start meeting CHEM faculty and students. ● Visit the Center for Career Development to learn about the education and skills required for possible careers in Chemistry. ● Attend the Student Activities Fair and join Owlchemy. ● Identify summer programs and job opportunities through the Chemistry website and the Rice Summer Opportunities Fair. ● Strongly consider making arrangements to conduct research during the next academic year.	● Use the tips below, the General Announcements, the OAA website, and the CHEM website to determine your degree plan with your Major Advisor: - Not all courses are offered every year. Plan ahead to have flexibility in your schedule. - Complete all lower-level CHEM requirements by the end of your 2nd year. - Complete as many laboratory course requirements as possible by the end of the second year, which provides useful training for independent research in future years. - Check that you will complete at least the minimum required hours (48) at the 300 level or higher and that you will be able to complete at least 60 hours outside of your major requirements. - If you have not yet enrolled in CHEM 391, make arrangements to conduct research next year (B.S. degree candidates are expected to complete CHEM 391 before the end of their third year.) ● Apply for summer programs, research opportunities, internships, and/or study abroad programs.
Third Year	**Fourth Year**
● Apply to attend a research conference or symposium and consider presenting your research. ● Consider post-graduation plans. Begin gathering information about graduate schools or employment sectors. ● Speak with faculty members, advisors, and other mentors about post-graduation plans. ● Begin preparing CV and personal statements. ● Register and prepare for relevant standardized tests. ● Look for scholarship and fellowship opportunities. ● Request letters of recommendation from faculty.	● Complete remaining degree requirements. ● Complete and submit employment and/or graduate applications. ● Request additional letters of recommendation, if necessary. ● Consider taking time off before starting work and/or graduate school, and discuss this possibility with your advisor.