



Jackson College

2025/26

## Western Michigan University Chemistry Curriculum Guide

The WMU Department of Chemistry offers a choice of four majors:

- **Chemistry major** - this 35-credit hour major in the College of Arts & Sciences is designed for students interested in graduate studies in chemistry. This major also suits students interested in teaching chemistry at the middle/high school level after completion of a Master of Arts in Teaching: Secondary Education.
- **Biochemistry** - this 36-credit hour major is recommended for students interested in careers in health sciences (medicine, dentistry, nutrition, pharmacology, etc.) or a graduate career in biochemistry or molecular biology.
- **Business-oriented chemistry major** - this 37-credit hour major is available to provide the chemical understanding needed if you are preparing for a career in the chemical industry, outside the laboratory. A minor will be chosen in the Haworth College of Business, and students are prepared to enter areas of management, sales, and some aspects of government service.
- **Geochemistry major** - this 68-credit hour major is designed for students interested in the fields of geochemistry or environmental chemistry and is advised in the department of Geological and Environmental Sciences.

### Important Information:

- You must meet one of the following math requirements: **MATH ACT** score of 27 or higher or **MATH SAT** score of 640 or successful completion of **MATH 1110** (MAT 139 or 139A at JC) ) with a grade of a "C" or higher or score 61% on the ALEKS math placement exam. More information about the ALEKS math placement can be found at <https://wmich.edu/math/placement>.
- All chemistry majors must meet with the College of Arts and Sciences chemistry advisor about major or minor, WES, and degree requirements. You must make an advising appointment to declare your major or minor.
- Chemistry majors must complete a minor (except Geochemistry). Business-oriented chemistry majors will be required to complete a minor in General Business, Management, or Marketing in the Haworth College of Business (HCoB).
- Chemistry majors must complete their last 14 credit hours in the department of Chemistry at WMU.
- Chemistry minors must complete at least 8 credits at WMU.

### Courses that can be taken at Jackson:

#### WMU courses

CHEM 1100|1110  
CHEM 1120|1130  
CHEM 3750|3760  
CHEM 3770|3780  
MATH 1220  
MATH 1230  
PHYS 2050|2060  
PHYS 2070|2080

#### Jackson courses

CEM 141  
CEM 142  
CEM 241 (elective for Geochem majors)  
CEM 242 (elective for Geochem majors)  
MAT 151  
MAT 154  
PHY 251 (elective for Geochem majors)  
PHY 252 (elective for Geochem majors)

#### Business-oriented majors may take these additional courses:

ACTY 2100  
BUS 1750  
MKTG 2500

ACC 231  
BUA 100  
BUA 230

#### Biochemistry majors may take these additional courses:

BIOS 1610  
BIOS 1620

BIO 162  
BIO 161

#### Geochemistry majors may take these courses:

**\*\*Very important note:** Geochemistry majors only need the following Chemistry courses: **CEM 141, 142, CHEM 2250|2260** (not available at JC), and 9 hours of **upper level Chemistry** coursework. You will also need 11 credits of **Math and General Science** (see below), and 9 credits of Geoscience electives (not available at JC).

#### Required:

GEOS 1300

GEL 160

#### Math and General Science or Chemistry electives:

BIOS 2320  
CHEM 3750|3760  
CHEM 3770|3780  
MATH 3740  
PHYS 2050|2060  
PHYS 2070|2080

BIO 220  
CEM 241  
CEM 242  
MAT 254  
PHY 251  
PHY 252

#### General education requirements:

- Please refer to the [WMU Essential Studies \(WES\) transfer guide](#) that lists courses meeting WES requirements at WMU that may be taken at JC.
- All students graduating from the College of Arts & Sciences must complete the College of Arts and Sciences Essentials (**CASE**). This includes world language proficiency (detailed in next bullet point), ENGL 1050/1060 sequence, and by completing the baccalaureate writing requirement.
- All students graduating from the College of Arts & Sciences must meet the world language proficiency by completing two semesters (6-8 hours) of the same foreign language or American Sign Language or passing WMU's proficiency by exam. Please contact the College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Advising Office at (269) 387-4366 with any questions. Neither the MACRAO Agreement nor the Michigan Transfer Agreement satisfy the world language requirement.

- If the student's first language is not English, the student is exempt from this requirement. Determination of eligibility for this exemption is based on whether the student was required to take the TOEFL test for admission and can be verified through the WMU departments of Spanish or World Languages and Literatures.
- You may email the WMU advisors in the College of Arts & Sciences for further clarification about **WES or CASE**.

**Contact information:**

Chemistry Advisor  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Department of Chemistry  
wmich.edu/chemistry/advising  
[chem-advising@wmich.edu](mailto:chem-advising@wmich.edu)  
(269) 387-4341

For general education advising or world language requirement questions:  
wmich.edu/arts-sciences/advising