



Fall 2026 SUGGESTED COURSES

Chemistry (CHEM) and Biochemistry (BCHM)

Course Load

As you adjust to Cal Poly and/or a new environment, we recommend enrolling in **12-14 units, with no more than 3 labs**. You can determine if your course has a lab by reading the course description. All course descriptions, including prerequisites, can be found in the [Cal Poly Catalog](#).

Course Suggestions

MAJOR: BIOCHEMISTRY

- CHEM 1103: Research Methods I (1-unit)
- CHEM 2201: Undergraduate Research (1-2 units)
- CHEM 3302: Undergraduate Seminar II (1 unit)
- CHEM 3330: Foundations of Chemical Analysis (4 units)
- If you're starting Organic Chemistry (credit granted in CHEM 1120 and 1122 but no credit in CHEM 2242), take:
 - CHEM 2242: Organic Chemistry I (4 units)
- If you have already completed a semester of Organic Chemistry (credit granted in CHEM 2242), take:
 - CHEM 3352: Biochemistry (4 units)

MAJOR: CHEMISTRY

- CHEM 1103: Research Methods I (1-unit)
- CHEM 2201: Undergraduate Research (1-2 units)
- CHEM 3302: Undergraduate Seminar II (1 unit)
- CHEM 3330: Foundations of Chemical Analysis (4 units)
- If you're starting Organic Chemistry (credit granted in CHEM 1120 and 1122 but no credit in CHEM 2242), take:
 - CHEM 2242: Organic Chemistry I (4 units)
- If you have already completed a semester of Organic Chemistry (credit granted in CHEM 2242), take:
 - CHEM 2220: Inorganic Chemistry I: D-Block Chemistry (3 units) and CHEM 2221: Inorganic Chemistry I Laboratory (1 unit) or
 - CHEM 3352: Biochemistry (4 units)



SUPPORT

If needed, complete any remaining lower-division support courses, particularly physics and mathematics.

ELECTIVES

It's a good idea to consult advisors about your elective choices, *especially* if you plan to pursue graduate studies or if you are interested in a health professions career. Pay special attention to the footnotes on your curriculum sheet. If an elective course is also a GE, it can be used to fulfill both elective and GE requirements.

GENERAL EDUCATION

If needed, complete any remaining lower-division GE courses. Otherwise, select an upper-division GE course.

Other Graduation Requirements

GWR

[The Graduation Writing Requirement \(GWR\)](#) must be fulfilled by enrolling in a [GWR-certified course](#) or by completing a [GWR Portfolio](#).

USCP

Students must satisfy the [United States Cultural Pluralism \(USCP\)](#) requirement. Please [click here](#) for a list of USCP courses in the Cal Poly catalog.

Additional Information

PERMISSION NUMBERS

If you need a permission number for a class, please contact the Chemistry and Biochemistry department using the contact info below.

DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFO

- [Building 180 \(Baker Center\), Room 206A](#)
- chemistry.calpoly.edu
- chem@calpoly.edu
- 805-756-2693

BAILEY COLLEGE STUDENT SERVICES CONTACT INFO

- [Building 53 \(Science North\), Room 211](#)
- csmadvising.calpoly.edu and prehealth.calpoly.edu
- csmadvising@calpoly.edu and prehealth@calpoly.edu
- 805-756-2615