Chemistry*

(AS Transfer Degree)

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Career Cluster

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

NATURE OF WORK

Everything in our world is made up of chemicals. Some have been created by nature and others have been man-made by chemists. Chemists work to discover chemicals that can be used in everyday life from synthetic fibers to drugs to electronic components. Their discoveries have helped to create thousands of products and have led to changes in processes that have influenced oil refining, saved energy and lowered pollution. Chemists can be found in research and development departments in large firms such as; pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and manufacturing companies. They also work in production and quality control departments. Chemists use computers to assist them in comprehending the complex data they receive.

WORKING CONDITIONS

The majority of chemists work regular hours in laboratories and offices and as a team member. Most of their time is spent in the laboratory, but they work in offices when they need to create reports on their lab research. Chemists may work in chemical plants and outdoors. Chemists can be exposed to health or safety hazards when handling certain chemicals, but there is little risk if proper procedures are followed.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Some entry-level chemist positions require a bachelor's degree, however there are technician positions in Albuquerque, Denver and Phoenix that a person with an associates degree can obtain. Many research positions require a master's degree, or more often a Ph.D. Colleges and universities offer degrees in chemistry. About 620 degree programs have been approved by the American Chemical Society. Students planning careers as chemists need courses in science and mathematics. They should like working with their hands to build scientific apparatus and perform laboratory experiments, as well as enjoy computer modeling.

OUTLOOK

Employment is expected to grow slower than average for all occupations. Within the chemical industry, job opportunities are expected to be most plentiful in pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms. More opportunities are available for people with advanced degrees.

*Most of this information is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-2011

CAREER OPTIONS

Chemist, Chemist Technician

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

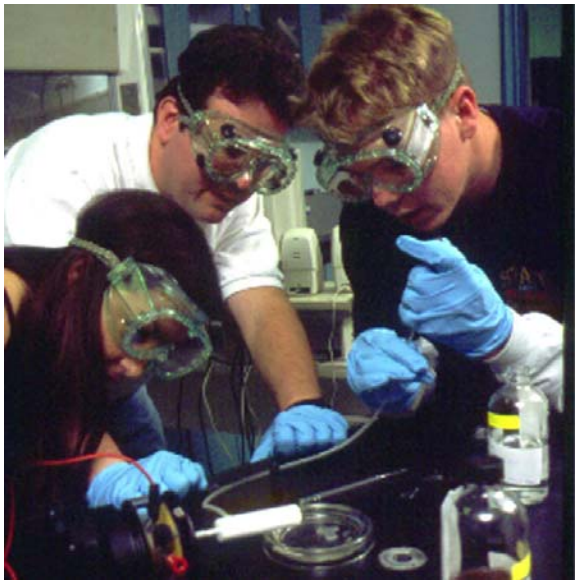
New Mexico—$35,219—76,080
Nationally— $35,219—$76,080
(depending on skill, experience and responsibility)

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Agricultural scientist, biochemist, chemical engineer, chemical technician, food technologist/analyst, metallurgical technician, pharmaceutical sales representative, pharmacologist, teacher, toxicologist

SJC Basic Program Information

The program is designed for people who want to become chemical technicians after receiving an associates degree or who want to transfer to other colleges or universities to acquire advanced degrees.



For further information go to:

www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp
Click on AS link under Transfer Programs
www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/1416.asp
www.bls.gov/oco/ocos049.htm
http://dgr.rints.com/

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