



WESTERN  
ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

# INTEGRATED BACCALAUREATE AND MASTER'S DEGREE IN FORENSIC CHEMISTRY – CHEMISTRY

*Higher Values in Higher Education*

Academic Excellence • Educational Opportunity  
Personal Growth • Social Responsibility

The Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's degree program (IBMP) in Chemistry provides an opportunity for outstanding undergraduate Chemistry / Biochemistry / Forensic Chemistry majors to complete both a Bachelor of Science degree in Forensic Chemistry and a Master of Science degree in Chemistry in five years. In addition to earning both degrees a year early, the integrated programs may include additional opportunities to participate in a variety of experiential educational activities such as a master's project or thesis.



## Admission Requirements

- The applicant should apply to the WIU School of Graduate Studies for admission to the integrated degree program in Chemistry.
- The applicant must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher and a major GPA of 3.25 or higher.
- The applicant should request three letters of recommendation from faculty.
- The applicant should submit a statement of purpose and career goals.
- Official transcripts will be obtained from Sherman Hall by Graduate Office staff.

## Degree Requirements

The Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's degree program (IBMP) in Forensic Chemistry offers interested and serious students one of the two following plans: (1) the Thesis Plan, which emphasizes research, and (2) the Applied Chemistry Plan. The coursework of a given plan will be determined through careful advising of directed electives. All students will complete the necessary coursework to have a strong understanding in all fundamental areas of chemistry. Both plans will require the minimum 123 semester hours (SH) of the regular Bachelor of Science (BS) in Forensic Chemistry degree program.

The Thesis Plan will include significant portions of research work to be carried out by the students under the guidance of Chemistry faculty mentors. This work will culminate in the completion of a master's thesis in the last semester of the program. The thesis should demonstrate the student's mastery of the basic areas of chemistry, as well as the completion of a significant research project. The Applied Chemistry Plan will require an internship whereby the student will spend a minimum of one semester at a cooperating industrial or government laboratory.

Students will be required to complete 123 SH for the BS degree. Nine of these hours may be taken as "bridge" courses, which will also count toward the 32 SH required for the master's degree. Courses taken for bridge credit will require students to complete extra projects and demonstrate a higher level of understanding of class materials. A student

must be a senior and accepted into the IBMP in Forensics Chemistry before bridge courses may be taken.

## Career Opportunities

There are many opportunities available, including jobs in academia and industry as well as opportunities in pursuing doctorate studies at various institutions nationwide.





## Integrated Degree Course Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 123 sh of credits to meet the BS degree requirements, including the following:

**University General Education Requirements** ..... 55 sh

**Core Courses** ..... 49 sh  
 CHEM 201\*, 202\*, 251, 331, 332, 341, 351, 401, 416, 421, 442, 452, 455 or 491; BOT 200\*; ZOOL 200\*

**Directed Electives** ..... 7 sh  
 Either CHEM 370 or 374 and either CHEM 485 or 490

**Other Requirements:** ..... 28-31 sh  
 A. MATH 133\* & 134\* (Calculus I and II)  
 B. PHYS 211\* & 212\* (University Physics I and II), or Phys 124 and 125 (General Physics I and II)  
 C. LEJA 101 (Survey of Criminal Justice) and 242 (Survey of Criminal Investigation) or LEJA 303 (Administration in Criminal Justice)  
 D. Either ANTH 405 (Forensic Anthropology), BIOL 330 (Cell and Molecular Biology), GEOL 110\* (Geology), or MICR 200 (Microbiology), CS 305 (Intro to Comp Forensics)

Students must complete 32 sh of graduate credits in one of the following plans:

### Thesis Plan

CHEM 580 Seminar ..... 2 sh  
 CHEM 600 Research ..... 12 sh  
 CHEM 601 Thesis ..... 3 sh  
 Directed Electives (includes up to 9 sh of bridge courses)..... 15 sh  
**Total program**..... 32 sh

### Applied Chemistry Plan

CHEM 580 Seminar ..... 2 sh  
 CHEM 590 Internship ..... 10 sh  
 CHEM 591 Internship Report ..... 2 sh  
 Electives in Cognate Area ..... 3 sh  
 Directed Electives (includes up to 9 sh of bridge courses)..... 15 sh  
**Total program**..... 32 sh

Up to 9 sh of the following bridge undergraduate/graduate courses can be counted toward the 32 sh requirement: CHEM 401G Inorganic Chemistry (4); one of the following Biochemistry courses: CHEM 421G (4) or CHEM 422G (4); CHEM 442G Instrumental Analysis (5); CHEM 451G Applications of Forensic Chemistry (3), CHEM 452G Forensic Toxicology and DNA Analysis (3); or CHEM 416G Chemical Literature (1).

### Contact Information

For admissions process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, (877) WIU GRAD toll-free, [Grad-Office@wiu.edu](mailto:Grad-Office@wiu.edu), [wiu.edu/grad](http://wiu.edu/grad).

For specific program questions, contact Department of Chemistry Chair Rose McConnell, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1538, [chemistry@wiu.edu](mailto:chemistry@wiu.edu), [wiu.edu/chemistry](http://wiu.edu/chemistry).