

# Know Your Grad School Options

## M.S./M.A.

Master of Science (M.S.)  
Master of Arts (M.A.)



Advanced education in a specialized area of chemistry

Look for a robust program specifically dedicated to master's students. Some degrees may transfer to PhD program, if desired.

### For students who want to

Conduct or support industry research

Advance in non-research career (lab support, analysis, policy, K-12 education)

Supplement professional degree program (e.g., law)



### Components

coursework, research, thesis (varies)



### Commitment

2-3 years



### Financial Support

Typically student-supported; independent funding, tuition waivers, teaching/research assistantships may be available

## P.S.M.

Professional  
Science Masters



Combines advanced STEM education with business, leadership, project management training

P.S.M. programs tend to be multidisciplinary and are relatively new in academia. Make sure the program emphasizes required skills for your desired career path.

### For students who want to

Pursue management, finance, intellectual property, or similar business positions in a chemical company

Start a business

Combine chemistry knowledge with another field



### Components

coursework, internships



### Commitment

2-3 years



### Financial Support

Typically student-supported; independent funding, tuition waivers, stipends, may be available.

## Ph.D.

Doctorate



Highly specialized programs for leading independent research

Doctoral programs are research-intensive, so look for programs with the resources to support your interests.

### For students who want to

Conduct independent research in industry, academia, government, etc.

Lead research teams

Teach at postsecondary institutions



### Components

research, coursework, departmental seminar, thesis



### Commitment

3-4 years with M.S., 5-6 years without M.S.



### Financial Support

Tuition waivers and teaching/research assistantships are standard; independent funding may be available