

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING - BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BSCE)

Alternative and renewable energy technology. Carbon capture and reducing CO₂ emissions. Creating cutting-edge nanomaterials. These are just a few of the challenges chemical engineers are working to address today.

Chemical engineering students at CU Boulder learn the skills necessary to address the energy, climate change and technology challenges of tomorrow. Learn from world-class faculty leveraging innovative, award-winning education practices and hands-on lab experiences. Benefit from department connections to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the BioFrontiers Institute, the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute and more.

Requirements

Prerequisites and Passing Grades

Unless otherwise specified, minimum passing grades for all courses that are prerequisites for other required courses is C-. If a grade of D+ or lower is received in a course which is a prerequisite to another, the student may not register for the subsequent course until the first grade has been raised to a C- or higher. In addition CHEN core courses taken in a student's senior year also require a minimum grade of C-, even though they are not prerequisites.

Unless specified otherwise, the minimum passing grade for a course that is not specifically a prerequisite for another required course is D-.

Students may be dropped from courses if they do not meet the minimum prerequisite grade requirements. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the department if summer coursework and/or transfer credit will be used to meet the prerequisite requirement.

Required Courses

A total of 128 credit hours is required.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
CHEN 1310	Introduction to Engineering Computing	3
CHEN 2120	Chemical Engineering Material and Energy Balances	3
CHEN 2810	Biology for Engineers	3
or MCDB 1150	Introduction to Cellular and Molecular Biology	
or EBIO 1220	General Biology 2	
CHEN 3010	Applied Data Analysis	3
or STAT 4010	Statistical Methods and Applications II	
CHEN 3200	Chemical Engineering Fluid Mechanics	3
or MCEN 3021	Fluid Mechanics	
CHEN 3210	Chemical Engineering Heat and Mass Transfer	4
CHEN 3220	Chemical Engineering Separations	3
CHEN 3320	Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics	3
CHEN 4090	Undergraduate Seminar	1
CHEN 4130	Chemical Engineering Laboratory	3

or CHEN 4010 & CHEN 4020	Chemical Engineering Senior Thesis 1 and Chemical Engineering Senior Thesis 2	
CHEN 4330	Chemical Engineering Reaction Kinetics	3
CHEN 4440	Chemical Engineering Materials	3
CHEN 4520	Chemical Process Synthesis	3
CHEN 4521	Physical Chemistry for Engineers	3
CHEN 4530	Chemical Engineering Design Project	2
CHEN 4570	Instrumentation and Process Control	4

Required Mathematics Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
APPM 1350	Calculus 1 for Engineers	4
or MATH 1300	Calculus 1	
or APPM 1345	Calculus 1 with Algebra, Part B	
APPM 1360	Calculus 2 for Engineers	4
or MATH 2300	Calculus 2	
APPM 2350	Calculus 3 for Engineers	4
or MATH 2400	Calculus 3	
APPM 2360	Introduction to Differential Equations with Linear Algebra	4
or MATH 2130 & MATH 3430	Introduction to Linear Algebra for Non-Mathematics Majors and Ordinary Differential Equations	
or MATH 2135 & MATH 3430	Introduction to Linear Algebra for Mathematics Majors and Ordinary Differential Equations	

Required Science Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
CHEM 1221	Engineering General Chemistry Lab	1
or CHEM 1134	Laboratory in General Chemistry 2	
CHEN 1201	General Chemistry for Engineers 1 (If a student completes CHEN 1211 instead of CHEN 1201 & CHEN 1203, then student must complete 2 additional credits as Free Electives)	0-4
or CHEN 1211	Accelerated Chemistry for Engineers	
CHEN 1203	General Chemistry for Engineers 2 (If a student completes CHEN 1211 instead of CHEN 1201 & CHEN 1203, then student must complete 2 additional credits as Free Electives)	2
or CHEN 1211	Accelerated Chemistry for Engineers	
or CHEM 1133	General Chemistry 2	
CHEM 3311	Organic Chemistry 1	4
CHEM 3321	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry 1	1
CHEM 3331	Organic Chemistry 2	4
CHEM 3341	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry 2	1
PHYS 1110	General Physics 1	4
or PHYS 1115	General Physics 1 for Majors	
PHYS 1120	General Physics 2	4
or PHYS 1125	General Physics 2 for Majors	
PHYS 1140	Experimental Physics 1	1
Advanced Chemistry Elective		3

Choose one of the following:

BCHM 4611	Principles of Biochemistry
CHEM 4011	Modern Inorganic Chemistry
CHEM 4531	Physical Chemistry 2

Humanities, Social Sciences and Writing

Complete the College's Humanities, Social Sciences, and Writing requirements (<https://www.colorado.edu/engineering-advising/get-your-degree/degree-requirements/humanities-social-sciences-and-writing-requirements/>) (18 credits total).

Technical Electives

General Technical and Engineering Technical Electives must meet specific requirements (15 credits total). Visit the department's Current Students (<http://www.colorado.edu/chbe/academics/undergraduate-program/current-students/>) webpage and consult the current advising guide.

Free Electives

3 credits of Free Electives allowed.

Modified Pathways

Curricular pathways have been established in fields of major importance and particular interest. To follow one of these pathways requires careful planning and course selection by student and advisor.

Materials Option

The need to develop new materials for a rapidly broadening spectrum of applications is one of the major technological challenges confronting applied science. Chemical engineers have the required background in chemistry and transport theory to contribute significantly in this area. This option focuses on polymeric and ceramic materials by complementing the chemical engineering curriculum with elective courses stressing the interrelationship between materials fabrication, structure, properties and performance. For information on the materials option, visit the department's current students (<http://www.colorado.edu/chbe/academics/undergraduate-program/current-students/>) webpage and consult the current advising guide.

Required Courses

A total of 15 credit hours is required.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Advanced Chemistry Elective		
CHEM 4011	Modern Inorganic Chemistry	3
General Technical Electives		
Materials Electives		
(3 credit hours must be CHEN 3000 or above level)		
Choose two from the following:		
CHEN 3840	Independent Study	3
or CHEN 4840	Independent Study	
CHEN 4450	Polymer Chemistry	3
CHEN 4460	Polymer Engineering	3
CHEN 4650	Particle Technology	3
CHEN 4805	Biomaterials	3
CHEN 4836	Nanomaterials	3

CHEN 4480	Solar Cells and Optical Devices for Sustainable Buildings	
MCEN 2024	Materials Science	3

Premed Path

This path is offered for students preparing for medical school. Since chemical engineering already requires most of the premed courses, it is a logical choice for students who desire an engineering degree and the opportunity to pursue a medical profession. For information on the premed path, visit the department's current students (<http://www.colorado.edu/chbe/academics/undergraduate-program/current-students/>) webpage and consult the current advising guide.

Recommended Four-Year Plan of Study

While there are several tracks, only the Standard Curriculum is shown here. For details on the other tracks, visit the department's Current Students (<http://www.colorado.edu/chbe/academics/undergraduate-program/current-students/>) webpage and consult the current advising guide.

Year One

Fall Semester		Credit Hours
APPM 1350	Calculus 1 for Engineers	4
CHEN 1201	General Chemistry for Engineers 1	4
CHEN 1300 Introduction to Chemical Engineering (Optional 1-Credit Technical Elective) ¹		
CHEN 1310	Introduction to Engineering Computing	3
Humanities or Social Science Elective ²		3
Credit Hours		14
Spring Semester		
APPM 1360	Calculus 2 for Engineers	4
CHEM 1221	Engineering General Chemistry Lab	1
CHEN 1203	General Chemistry for Engineers 2	2
CHEN 2810	Biology for Engineers	3
PHYS 1110	General Physics 1	4
Humanities or Social Science Elective ²		3
Credit Hours		17

Year Two

Fall Semester		
APPM 2350	Calculus 3 for Engineers	4
CHEM 3311	Organic Chemistry 1	4
CHEM 3321	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry 1	1
CHEN 2120	Chemical Engineering Material and Energy Balances	3
PHYS 1120	General Physics 2	4
PHYS 1140	Experimental Physics 1	1
Credit Hours		17
Spring Semester		
APPM 2360	Introduction to Differential Equations with Linear Algebra	4
CHEM 3331	Organic Chemistry 2	4
CHEM 3341	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry 2	1
CHEN 3200	Chemical Engineering Fluid Mechanics	3
CHEN 4090	Undergraduate Seminar	1

CHEN 4521	Physical Chemistry for Engineers	3
Credit Hours		16
Year Three		
Fall Semester		
CHEN 3010	Applied Data Analysis	3
CHEN 3210	Chemical Engineering Heat and Mass Transfer	4
CHEN 3320	Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics	3
College-Approved Writing Course ³		3
Free Electives ⁵		3
Credit Hours		16
Spring Semester		
CHEN 3220	Chemical Engineering Separations	3
CHEN 4330	Chemical Engineering Reaction Kinetics	3
CHEN 4440	Chemical Engineering Materials	3
Advanced Chemistry Elective ⁴		3
Technical Elective ^{1, 5}		3
Humanities or Social Science Elective ²		3
Credit Hours		18
Year Four		
Fall Semester		
CHEN 4130	Chemical Engineering Laboratory	3
CHEN 4520	Chemical Process Synthesis	3
CHEN 3000+ Technical Elective ⁵		3
Technical Elective ^{1, 5}		3
Humanities or Social Science Elective ²		3
Credit Hours		15
Spring Semester		
CHEN 4530	Chemical Engineering Design Project	2
CHEN 4570	Instrumentation and Process Control	4
CHEN 3000+ Technical Elective ⁵		3
Technical Elective ^{1, 5}		3
Humanities or Social Science Elective ²		3
Credit Hours		15
Total Credit Hours		128

¹ Introduction to Chemical Engineering (CHEN 1300, 1) is an optional Engineering Technical Elective. If it is taken, one of the Technical Elective courses in this Plan of Study will only require 2 credits (instead of 3 credits).

² Students may choose courses from the list of college-approved humanities and social sciences (HSS) electives (<https://www.colorado.edu/engineering-advising/get-your-degree/degree-requirements/humanities-social-sciences-and-writing-requirements/>).

³ Students may choose a course from the list of college-approved writing courses (<https://www.colorado.edu/engineering-advising/get-your-degree/degree-requirements/humanities-social-sciences-and-writing-requirements/>).

⁴ Advanced Chemistry Electives include: Principles of Biochemistry (BCHM 4611, 3), Modern Inorganic Chemistry (CHEM 4011, 3), and Physical Chemistry 2 (CHEM 4531, 3).

⁵ General Technical Electives, Engineering Technical Electives, and Free Electives must meet specific requirements. Visit the department's Current Students (<http://www.colorado.edu/chbe/academics/undergraduate-program/current-students/>) webpage and consult the current advising guide.

Learning Outcomes

Program Educational Objectives

The department prepares graduates to make significant contributions in many diverse areas. Specifically, within a few years of graduation our graduates will have achieved one or more of the following attributes:

- In their chosen field, be established in a professional career, be pursuing an advanced degree or be seeking advanced certification.
- Be recognized as academic, industrial or entrepreneurial leaders.
- Be successfully working and contributing in a variety of technical fields.
- Be adapting to new technologies and changing professional environments

Student Outcomes

At the time of graduation, students will demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify, formulate and solve complex engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science and mathematics.
- Apply engineering design to produce solutions that meet specified needs with consideration of public health, safety and welfare, as well as global, cultural, social, environmental and economic factors.
- Communicate effectively with a range of audiences.
- Recognize ethical and professional responsibilities in engineering situations and make informed judgments, which must consider the impact of engineering solutions in global, economic, environmental and societal contexts.
- Function effectively on a team whose members together provide leadership, create a collaborative and inclusive environment, establish goals, plan tasks and meet objectives.
- Develop and conduct appropriate experimentation, analyze and interpret data, and use engineering judgment to draw conclusions.
- Acquire and apply new knowledge as needed, using appropriate learning strategies.

Bachelor's–Accelerated Master's Degree Program(s)

The bachelor's–accelerated master's (BAM) degree program options offer currently enrolled CU Boulder undergraduate students the opportunity to receive a bachelor's and master's degree in a shorter period of time. Students receive the bachelor's degree first, but begin taking graduate coursework as undergraduates (typically in their senior year).

Because some courses are allowed to double count for both the bachelor's and the master's degrees, students receive a master's degree in less time and at a lower cost than if they were to enroll in a stand-alone master's degree program after completion of their baccalaureate degree. In addition, staying at CU Boulder to pursue a bachelor's–accelerated master's program enables students to continue working with their established faculty mentors.

BS and MS in Chemical Engineering

Admissions Requirements

In order to gain admission to the BAM program named above, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.000 or higher.
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in CHEN coursework.
- Students must have completed CHEN 2120, CHEN 3200, CHEN 3210, CHEN 3320 and CHEN 3010 prerequisite courses with grades of B- in each course.
- Have at least junior class standing.
- Completion of all MAPS requirements and no deficiencies remaining (students admitted to CU Boulder prior to Fall 2023 only).
- Provide a one-page Statement of Purpose. The statement should briefly describe your past work in the field, including non-course educational experiences, teaching, or other relevant employment, publication, theses, research in progress, other scholarly activities and your plans for graduate study and a professional career
- GRE.
- Provide an unofficial transcript.

Program Requirements

Students may take up to and including 12 hours while in the undergraduate program which can later be used toward the master's degree. However, only six credit hours may be double counted toward the bachelor's degree and the master's degree. Students must apply to graduate with the bachelor's degree, and apply to continue with the master's degree, early in the semester in which the undergraduate requirements will be completed.

BS in Chemical Engineering, Professional MS in Materials Science

Admissions Requirements

In order to gain admission to the BAM program named above, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher.
- Completion of all MAPS requirements (students admitted to CU Boulder prior to Fall 2023 only).
- Completion of the following five CHEN core courses with a minimum grade of B- in each course: CHEN 2120, CHEN 3200, CHEN 3210, CHEN 3320 and CHEN 3010.
- Be enrolled in CHEN 4440.
- Provide an unofficial transcript.

Students with a GPA below 3.25 (but above 3.0, the university minimum standard) may submit a petition with a letter of recommendation from a professor and a one-page statement of purpose. The statement should briefly describe the student's past work in the field, including any non-course educational experiences or other relevant employment, and the student's plans for graduate study and a professional career.

Program Requirements

Students must declare a track in which to specialize. Students may take up to and including 12 hours while in the undergraduate program that satisfy the specialized track courses and/or the breadth elective courses, which can later be used toward the master's degree. However, only six credit hours may be double counted toward the bachelor's degree and the master's degree. Students must apply to graduate with the bachelor's

degree, and apply to continue with the master's degree, early in the semester in which the undergraduate requirements will be completed.

Please see the BAM degree program (<https://www.colorado.edu/chbe/undergraduate-program/undergraduate-opportunities/>) web page for more information.