

Chemistry at Trent

Chemistry is the central discipline of science, with interdisciplinary links to all other physical and life science disciplines. Within the Chemistry Department you can specialize in organic, inorganic, physical and analytical chemistry, or biochemistry, and take advantage of course options supported by the Departments of Physics, Biology and the School of the Environment. You will be studying in a program accredited by the Canadian Society for Chemistry, and gain experience with special equipment for modern experimental and theoretical chemistry, including spectrophotometers, mass spectrometers, as well as gas, ion, and high-performance liquid chromatography equipment.

These explorations can take place both in the classroom and beyond - through the Chemistry Co-op program, you can put skills to action across a 12-month paid work term in a professional setting.

Chemistry Co-op

Trent's paid co-op is an opportunity for you to gain work-integrated experiential learning that will help you get a head start on your career. The Chemistry co-op assists graduating students in achieving a competitive edge while generating experience within a wide range of sectors.

Specifically, paid co-op gives you a chance to obtain 12 months of practical experience on the job, develop or enhance technical skills, explore career options, network with a variety of individuals and organizations, learn from mentors, enhance communication and presentation skills, and develop technical writing skills.

Chemistry Co-op is a competitive direct-entry program with a limited number of spaces.

Program Requirements for Admittance into Co-op:

- Minimum 80% cumulative average
- SCH4U, MHF4U, MCV4U, SPH4U and ENG4U

To remain in the co-op, students must:

- Successfully complete the required Co-op courses: COOP 2000H with a grade of 70%+
- Maintain a minimum 75% cumulative average throughout their study terms
- Maintain a minimum 75% in each required second year Chemistry course
- Complete the single 12-month work term experience (COOP 2100P, 3100P, 4100P)
- Receive satisfactory evaluations during their co-op work term

Chemistry Co-op Work Term Schedule

	Fall	Winter	Summer
Year 1	Study Term 1	Study Term 2	Off
Year 2	Study Term 3	Study Term 4	Off
Year 3	Study Term 5	Study Term 6	Work Term
Year 4	Work Term	Work Term	Off
Year 5	Study Term 7	Study Term 8	Off

Students in the Chemistry Co-op follow the co-op continuing model where they complete one 12-month work term with a single employer.

All co-op students are encouraged to meet with an Academic Advisor for degree mapping and to ensure they are meeting all their program requirements. You can book an appointment on the Student Experience Portal (trentu.ca/sep) or by calling (705) 748-1011 ext. 1488.

Please Note: Co-op is meant to prepare students for the real-world job application process and as such, the co-op process is competitive and dependent upon many factors including market conditions, the student's efforts to secure a work term, and the academic performance of a student. Every effort is made to find a suitable 12-month work term for students, but a work term cannot be guaranteed for every student. Co-op students will secure their position through successful participation in the co-op interview process and/or their own job search activities. Withdrawal from the co-op program will not normally be approved while a student is on a work term.

Students who are unable to obtain a suitable co-op opportunity are expected to continue with their academic program on a full-time basis. The missed work term experience would be delayed to the Fall of Year 4 if a student is unable to secure their work term. If a co-op student is unable to complete their 12-month continuous co-op work term yet otherwise fulfills degree requirements, they will be awarded an Honours Bachelor of Science in Chemistry.

Students do not pay tuition during each work term. Students are required to pay co-op fees plus ancillary fees and levies. The Co-op Assistance Program is available to support students in financial need with co-op expenses. For more information, please reach out to coop@trentu.ca.

International Students As of April 1, 2026, international post-secondary students no longer need a co-op work permit to participate in a mandatory work component of their study program. To be eligible for student work placements, you must have a valid study permit that includes authorization to work on campus. For full eligibility requirements and updates on working in Canada as an international student, visit [Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada](https://www Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada).

Students with Disabilities are strongly encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Please contact sas@trentu.ca for more support.

Sample Work Term Areas for Chemistry:

- Environmental Chemistry
- Pharmaceutical Science
- Quality Control & Process Monitoring
- Research & Development
- Laboratory Analysis

Potential Career Paths for a Chemistry Graduate:

- Toxicologist
- Environmental Chemist
- Pharmacological Chemist
- Radiologist
- Food and Drug Analyst

