Many Albright students pursue dual majors, combining chemistry or biochemistry with another discipline. Recently, students have graduated with majors in chemistry & computer science, chemistry & criminology, biochemistry & music, biochemistry & Spanish, and environmental chemistry & business.

Honors Program

Students who meet the academic qualifications may also participate in the Honors Program in chemistry and biochemistry. The program includes freshman honors courses, honors modules for sophomore and junior students, and independent research leading to Departmental Distinction and College Honors for seniors.

Internships

Students have many opportunities for hands-on learning through internships with companies and organizations such as:

- ATOFINA Chemicals
- Bayer Corporation
- Cabot Performance Metals
- Delaware County Medical Examiner’s Office
- Dietrich Milk Products
- Johnson & Johnson
- Kiwi Brands
- Lancaster Laboratories
- National Institutes of Health
- Merck & Company
- Prizer Painter Corporation
- Reading Alloys
- Reading Fire Department
- Reading Police Department
- Reading Hospital & Medical Center
- Sealed Air Corporation
- Wyeth
- York Hospital

“I chose Albright for the personal interactions with professors and the hands-on scientific approach. Having experience at the bench is a must in the chemistry and biochemistry job market, so it was great to be able to cite specific experience during job interviews. The skills I learned at Albright made the transition from college to career smooth, and gave me the opportunity to work in the field that I’ve always aspired to!”

Mindy (Lancaster) Trzcinski ’02
Biologist - FBI, Laboratory Division
Student Research

The Albright faculty is involved in a variety of research endeavors, and many students have conducted independent research in collaboration with faculty members. This work often leads to articles in professional journals and presentations at regional and national meetings.

In the summer prior to publication of this brochure, the following students did research through the College’s Albright Creative & Research Experience (ACRE) Program:

- **Improved Ion Exchange Mechanism for Removing Perchlorate from Contaminated Water**
  Charles Frankhouser worked with Dr. Christian Hamann, chemistry professor, on this project. Perchlorate is an ingredient used in rocket fuel, and it is hoped that a new technology could assist in environmental remediation.

- **Studies of Unfolding of Arylamine N-Acetyltransferase (NAT) Induced by Urea and Guanidine Hydrochloride Followed by CD Spectroscopy**
  Quintina Herrera worked with Dr. Frieda Texter, chemistry professor. In essence, Quintina’s project is chemical origami in reverse. Her work will ultimately produce useful information about the action of this enzyme in detoxifying organic pollutants in humans and other mammals.

- **Thermal Denaturation of Recombinant N-Acetyltransferase 2 by CD Spectroscopy**
  John Touhill worked with Dr. Frieda Texter from the chemistry department. John’s research is applicable to the medical field, and contributes to the understanding of antibiotic resistance and the underlying causes of certain cancers.

- **Creating Ambrox from Pine Trees**
  Gary Willman worked with Dr. Chris Hamann on a chemistry project involving the synthesis of Ambrox, a perfume fixative historically made from the sperm whale. Gary explored techniques to create Ambrox from an easy-to-obtain natural compound in pine trees.

Outcomes

Graduate and Professional School

Albright students are regularly placed in respected law, medical, dental, pharmacy, optometry and veterinary schools, as well as graduate programs in specialized areas of biochemistry, chemistry or biology. Recent Albright graduates have gone on to study at institutions such as:

- Cornell University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Lehigh University
- Northwestern University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Temple University
- Thomas Jefferson University
- Tufts University
- University of California Los Angeles
- University of Maryland
- University of Massachusetts
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Virginia
- University of Wisconsin
- Yale University

Career Opportunities

Recent Albright graduates in chemistry and biochemistry have found job opportunities with organizations and companies that include:

- Air Products
- Bayer Corporation
- Carpenter Technology
- Centocor
- Elf Atochem
- Fastenal Company
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory
- Fox Chase Cancer Center
- Glaxo SmithKline
- Gilford Pharmaceuticals Company
- Johns Hopkins University
- Kimberly Clark
- Lancaster Laboratories
- Merck and Company
- Mutual Pharmaceuticals
For more information about the chemistry or biochemistry programs, contact the chair of the chemistry department, Dr. Frieda Texter, at (610) 921-7747 or at ftexter@alb.edu.

Departmental Awards

Outstanding senior chemistry and biochemistry majors are recognized with the American Chemical Society Prize, the American Institute of Chemists Award, the Benjamin H. Handorf Chemistry Award, the Morgan S. Heller Memorial Chemistry Award, the Paul M. Leininger Chemistry Award and the Chemistry Faculty Award.

The Award in Analytical Chemistry is given to outstanding junior students in this discipline. The Undergraduate Award for Achievement in Organic Chemistry recognizes outstanding achievement by a biochemistry or chemistry major in introductory organic chemistry. The CRC Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award honors outstanding performance in general analytical chemistry.

Facilities

Albright’s Merner-Pfeiffer Hall of Science holds an impressive range of state-of-the-art equipment for use by students in laboratory courses and independent research. Use of the following instruments by students begins in the first year and continues throughout all four years: FT-IR, CD, ultraviolet-visible and atomic absorption spectrophotometers; spectrofluorometers; 200 and 300 MHz FT-NMR spectrometer; HPLC’s; a variety of gas chromatographs including an autosampling model and GC-mass spectrometer; refrigerated superspeed and ultracentrifuges; and molecular modeling workstations and a variety of microcomputers.

Faculty

Pamela G. Artz, Ph.D., associate professor, biochemistry – B.S., Albright College; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Phillip L. Dougherty, professor, inorganic chemistry – B.S., M.A.T., M.S., Colorado State University; Ph.D., University of Denver

Christian S. Hamann, Ph.D., assistant professor, organic chemistry – A.A., Ocean County Community College; B.S., Lebanon Valley College; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

James E. Scheirer, Ph. D., professor, physical chemistry – B.S., Ursinus College; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Frieda L. Texter, Ph.D., chair, department of chemistry and biochemistry and professor, biochemistry – B.S., Albright College; Ph.D., Purdue University

Eileen Walker, M.S., instructor, analytical chemistry - B.Sc., University College Cork; M.S., Villanova University