## 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