LEADING THE WAY IN TODAY'S COSMETICS INDUSTRY WITH UC TRAINING

The Department of Chemistry at UCR in collaboration with UCR Extension and the California Society of Cosmetic Chemists (CALISCC) is excited to announce the West's first educational program in Cosmetic Science.

What is Cosmetic Science:

The cosmetics industry has evolved significantly over the years, becoming a multifaceted field that combines artistry with cutting-edge science. Historically, cosmetics were often simple mixtures of natural ingredients, but the modern industry integrates advanced technologies and scientific principles. Today, it encompasses skincare, haircare, makeup, fragrances, and more, catering to a diverse global market.

Cosmetic Science, the discipline at the heart of this transformation, involves the formulation and development of cosmetic products. Cosmetic Scientists utilize their education and expertise in chemistry, biology, and materials science to create formulations that are not only aesthetically pleasing, but also safe and effective. The emphasis on research and development has led to a demand for skilled professionals.

The UC Certificate in Cosmetic Science:

The West Coast is the center of innovation within the industry. The Certificate in Cosmetic Science offered by the University of California, Riverside merges this innovative spirit with the academic standards of the University of California providing both a strong foundational knowledge base and advanced lab skills. The 13-unit, 12-month program is endorsed by CALISCC, and is specifically designed to be accessible for busy people either currently in the workforce or for current graduate or advanced undergraduate students alike.

Hybrid Lectures and Industry Leading Lab Experience:

Begin the program with two fully online hybrid foundational courses (**Intro to Cosmetic Science** and **Skin and Hair Biology**). Then hit the lab to gain an industry-leading 48 hours of hands-on laboratory experience in **Emulsion and Surfactant Technology** and **Product Development**. Labs are held on weekends and lab lectures are held online to provide convenience and flexibility to our students. Translate theory to your bench experience using our state-of-the-art lab that is fully equipped with the industry specific tools from Caframo and others that you need to expand your bench skills. And we offer training in Coptis Lab, an industry leader in formulation development software, that will help you efficiently manage your projects so you can get to the fun stuff: being at the bench.

Should I Take These Classes?

Our first cohort of talented students will complete the program in November and they truly illustrate the broad appeal of the UC Certificate in Cosmetic Science program. Some students have no experience in Cosmetic Science and are looking to enter the industry. Others have a few years at the bench or work in compliance and regulatory affairs and want to improve their lab skills and foundational knowledge for career advancement. And we have M.D.s who want to translate the scientific background and lab skills the program offers to their patients and even build their own product lines.

Employment:

For those new to the industry to others who are looking to advance their careers , the job opportunities in the West are diverse and dynamic. Cosmetic Scientists can find roles in research and development, where they innovate and formulate new products. Quality control and assurance roles ensure that products meet regulatory standards and perform as intended. Some may find themselves in marketing, translating complex scientific jargon into consumer-friendly language or working in the dynamic, often changing landscape of regulatory affairs. The cosmetic industry's global nature also opens doors for opportunities around the world, from established cosmetic companies to emerging indie brands.

Start Dates:

Winter 2025 classes begin on January 14. For further information or to apply, visit the Program's Website or connect to an Enrollment Advisor at University Extension. Or contact Dr. Kerry Hanson in Chemistry at kerryh@ucr.edu.

Download the brochure.
View our first class's video!
Meet some of your instructors: Dr. Ryan Kudla and Ms. Esther Olu (@themelaninchemist)