

**SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES AND  
REQUIREMENTS  
FOR GRADUATE DEGREES**

**Department of Chemistry  
and Biochemistry**

The Ohio State University

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# **SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE DEGREES**

## ***DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY***

### **GRADUATE DEGREES IN CHEMISTRY**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The requirements for advanced degrees at The Ohio State University are summarized in the Graduate School Handbook, which can be found on the Graduate School website at <http://gradsch.osu.edu/graduate-school-handbook1.html> and downloaded as a pdf file (<http://gradsch.osu.edu/Depo/PDF/Handbook.pdf>). All incoming students should become familiar with the contents of the Handbook and should use it for reference during the tenure of his/her degree program at OSU.

This document summarizes specific requirements for graduate degrees in Chemistry and Biochemistry, as well as additional comments and instructions for students in our program. A student who seeks a graduate degree in the department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is expected to expend a major effort on the research problem that culminates in a thesis or dissertation. To reach this goal, the candidate will conduct independent research under the guidance of a faculty advisor, prepare and present a thesis on the study, and demonstrate that it adds significant new knowledge to some area of chemistry. The course requirements are designed to prepare the student for this major challenge of graduate education. Do not become preoccupied with these rules, but be guided by them to an increasingly productive and rewarding experience.

#### **ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**

Admission requires demonstration of an acceptable B.S. or B.A. degree, and a reasonable expectation of success in the graduate program. The student should have a minimum overall undergraduate point-hour ratio of at least 3.2 (on a 4.0 basis), suitable performance on the graduate record examination (GRE), or satisfactory completion of such specific additional requirements as may be stipulated in special cases. The Graduate Admissions Committee reviews and makes recommendations on each application for admission to the program. The Vice Chair for Graduate Studies has final approval on all offers of admission.

#### **TRANSFER STUDENTS**

At the time of admission, the Admissions Committee may recommend that certain transfer students be exempted from the first-year exams (see section II.A below). This decision will be based on the student's academic record and level of research experience. If no recommendation is made, transfer students will be required to take the first-year exam.

Transfer students may petition to allow courses they took at a prior institution to stand in place of courses required at OSU. The student will submit previous course materials – syllabi, notes, homework, and exams – which will be evaluated by appropriate faculty in our department. Credits from other institutions cannot be transferred.

#### **ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

A graduate student doing acceptable work toward a graduate degree is expected to maintain a point-hour ratio of B (3.00) or better in all graduate-credit courses. If at any time after 9 hours of graduate credit, a student's cumulative point hour ratio (CPHR) falls below the 3.00 requirement, the student is automatically placed on probation by the Dean of the Graduate School. Although the student is expected to raise the CPHR above 3.00 the next term, continued enrollment is permitted on a term-by-term basis, as determined by the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies and the Graduate School. For additional information, please visit <http://gradsch.osu.edu/5.3-probation.html>.

## **DURATION OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

Normally, an M.S. student will spend two years in residence. The student who proceeds toward the Ph.D. without the M.S. degree will probably spend between 4-6 years, depending on the student's own initiative and research success. The student who has previously received a M.S. degree probably will spend four years in the Ph.D. program. The shorter time-periods apply to those students who enter with a strong undergraduate preparation, take a full course load, and are efficient and productive researchers.

## **PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS**

At the time students enroll in the Graduate School, the department will administer a series of written examinations that are used to gauge competence at the undergraduate level in analytical, biological, inorganic, organic, and physical chemistry. The purpose of these examinations is to aid the student and faculty advisors in planning a suitable progression of course work leading to the advanced degree. Students who are considered "not proficient" in a given area will be provided with advice on how to strengthen competency in that area. Such advice may include suggested course work and/or a course of independent study.

## **SAFETY SEMINAR COURSE**

Every graduate student is required to attend a complete the Safety Seminar (CHEM 6781) course during the second half of Autumn Semester of the first year. The purpose of the series is to maintain high safety standards in the departmental teaching and research laboratories. The series of lectures, given by the departmental safety coordinator or a faculty member, covers topics ranging from the handling of corrosive and toxic chemicals to fire fighting. Failure to attend any of these lectures will result in a grade of "Unsatisfactory" for the course and will constitute an unsatisfactory performance as a Graduate Associate and may result in loss of departmental support during the Spring Semester and summer of the first year. In addition to the Safety Seminars, each student must become familiar with the department's Chemical Hygiene Plan and the Standard Operating Procedures associated with their work.

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Most graduate students in the Ph.D. program receive financial support as Graduate Associates, either Teaching Associates (GTA) or Research Associates (GRA), or as Fellows during their tenure in the department. Graduate students supported by any of these appointments may not hold additional employment of any kind without express permission of the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies. Fellowship stipends may be supplemented up to the current GTA stipend; any stipends above that level must have prior approval by the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies.

The Graduate School sets minimum requirements of eligibility for GA appointments to students who are in a degree program. Until passing the candidacy exam (section II.B) students must register for at least eight (8) credit hours during fall and spring semester and four (4) during the summer session. After entering Ph.D. candidacy, the minimum number of credit hours per semester (including summer session) is three (3). Students who hold fellowships must register for twelve (12) credit hours during each fall and spring semester and six (6) during each summer session the appointment is held prior to entering Ph.D. candidacy, when they must register for a minimum of three (3) credit hours. International students who are not holding a GA appointment (an exceedingly rare occurrence) must register for eight (8) credit hours each fall and spring semester and four (4) each summer session Each of these registration requirements qualifies the student to be considered "full-time" for purposes such as visas and health insurance.

There are additional requirements imposed by the Graduate School. A student must be enrolled for at least three (3) credit hours during the term in which they graduate. A Master's degree requires at least 30

graduate credit hours, and the Ph.D. requires at least 80 graduate credit hours. Audited courses do not count toward these minima.

Departmental policies coincide with the guidelines set by the Graduate School for the most part:

- (1) Students with a GPA below 3.00 lose their right to a Department Graduate Research Associate appointment (dGRA), and may lose future support as a TA.
- (2) Students must advance to candidacy by the end of their third year in order to maintain support either in the form of a GRA, GTA, or Fellowship appointment. Students failing to advance to candidacy by the end of the third year must petition the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies for continuation of support.
- (3) Students required to obtain an M.S. degree prior to moving onto the Ph.D. track are still expected to advance to candidacy by the end of their third year to maintain support either in the form of an GRA or GTA appointment. Students failing to advance to candidacy by the end of their third year must petition the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies for continuation of support.
- (4) Students required to take a terminal M.S. degree are expected to defend their thesis by the end of their third year. Students failing to defend their M.S. thesis by the end of their third year must petition the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies for continuation of support.
- (5) Students who are entering their sixth year of graduate training must petition the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies to receive support during all or part of their sixth year, and must have the written approval of their advisor. Approval of such petitions will require the demonstration of a reasonable prospect that the degree program can be completed within one year.
- (6) Department policies specify that, except in unusual cases, students who have been enrolled for more than six years may not receive support as a GTA, GRA, or Fellow, from Research Foundation, departmental, or other funding sources. Only in exceptional instances will the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies will consider a petition for support beyond six years.
- (7) Every faculty member is required to evaluate their Graduate Teaching Assistants each term with ratings of Excellent (E), Satisfactory (S+, S, or S-), or Unsatisfactory (U). Evaluations are based primarily on overall performance as a teaching associate, but also include punctuality, attendance of staff meetings, and attitude toward students. Students receiving an unsatisfactory (U) teaching evaluation will be suspended from their teaching appointment for one term and must petition the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies for subsequent reinstatement. No GTA support will be available during such a suspension. Petitions to be supported as a GTA can be made after two semesters from the time the U rating was received. Two S- ratings are regarded as equivalent to one U rating. Any subsequent U will lead to dismissal from the teaching program and further GTA support will be available. A further S- rating will result either in complete dismissal from the teaching program or a one-term suspension, as appropriate.
- (8) Every faculty member is required to grade the performance of students taking research credits under his/her supervision each term with ratings of Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U). Evaluations are based primarily on overall progress in research, but also include time spent in the lab, attendance of group meetings, and handing in reports required by the advisor in a timely manner. Students receiving an unsatisfactory (U) grade will meet with the advisor and the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies to devise a plan to ensure future success. Any subsequent U grades in research will lead to the student not being in good standing in the department and can result in dismissal from the program.

### **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

Discussion with the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies usually leads to resolution of a grievance. If discussion with the Vice Chair proves unsatisfactory, the Graduate Council has established grievance

procedures, copies of which are available in the Graduate School (for details, please see <http://gradsch.osu.edu/appendix-d.html>).

### **ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

A student whose native language is not English must demonstrate a satisfactory proficiency in English at the beginning of the graduate program. Courses in written and oral English may be required for students who show a deficiency that might prove to be a handicap to graduate work. Students who hold a GTA appointment will be required to demonstrate proficiency in Spoken English, either by passing the SPEAK test or a Mock Teaching Test, both of which are administered by the English as a Second Language Program. Students must be certified to teach by the end of the Spring Semester of their first year. International students may also be required to take written English courses (5901, 5901.5, 5902) after taking English entrance examinations. Chemistry and Biochemistry students are required to complete all spoken English courses by the end of their second semester at OSU.

### **FACULTY RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS, ADVISOR SELECTION, AND INITIATION OF RESEARCH**

Dissertation research is initiated when a student has selected a research advisor, and has been admitted into a research group. The selection of an advisor is a major step in a student's program. The process involves attendance of faculty research presentation the first half of the Fall Semester, followed by a formal system of interviews during the second half of the semester. Students will be required to take a 7-week course designed to introduce them to the ongoing research in the department, CHEM 6780. Each faculty member will give short (~20 min) presentations on their research. Students will be required to attend the majority of these presentations in order to obtain a satisfactory grade in the course. These presentations are expected to help students identify at least four faculty members that he or she wishes to interview. In addition to listening to research in their area of interest, attending presentations from other disciplines will provide students with broader knowledge and with points of reference for topics in which their advisor is not an expert and for potential collaborations during their graduate career. After the end of the course, students will interview individual faculty whose research is of interest to them.

To initiate the interview procedure, the student will obtain a "Selection of Research Advisor Form" (blue form) from the Graduate Office and designate a minimum of four (4) faculty members that he or she wishes to interview. Students are encouraged to interview as many faculty as they feel may provide research programs of interest. The Vice Chair for Graduate Studies may assign additional faculty members in accordance with departmental and divisional guidelines, and provide the student with an "Interview Record Sheet" (yellow form). All faculty members on the "Interview Record Sheet" must sign the sheet after they have been interviewed. Students then submit a rank-ordered list of their top three choices for advisor ("Choice of Preceptor" form found on the reverse side of the yellow form) to the Graduate Office by a date that is announced at the start of autumn semester, typically during the middle to the end of November. The Graduate Studies Office then provides the list of student advisor preferences to the division secretaries and faculty. Following any formal faculty discussion that may be required by a division, the faculty member listed as the first choice must decide whether or not to serve as advisor to the student. The faculty member notifies the division secretary and Graduate Studies Office of his/her decision. If a faculty decides not to serve as advisor, the faculty member who is the second choice makes a similar decision. This process is repeated until the student has an advisor. In the event a student is not accepted by one of their top three choices, the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies becomes active in helping the student find an advisor, in a manner left to the discretion of the Vice Chair. Once the list of advisor preferences has been distributed, it is a goal of the department to place students in research groups within a two-week period. The process of selecting an advisor must be completed by the end of the second semester in order to qualify for a summer dGRA appointment.

A student may complete their Ph.D. research under the supervision of a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. This may be done in collaboration with faculty outside the department, including those affiliated with the department. The direct supervision of the Ph.D. research of chemistry and biochemistry graduate students by faculty outside the department is not permitted. Any

other advising arrangement is subject to approval by the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies, who will request a description of the proposed research and consider whether it is suitable for a Ph.D. thesis in Chemistry and Biochemistry.

After selection of an advisor and in consultation with the student and their advisor, the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies will appoint an advisory committee for each student. The purpose of the advisory committee is to provide each student with support and guidance during their graduate career. Students should meet with their advisory committee during the autumn semester of each year to discuss their progress in course work, examinations, and research. In addition, students are free to meet with any committee member at any time during the year. The department hopes that this process will provide a mechanism for forging closer ties between students and faculty, both before and after graduation.

If a student leaves a group, or the faculty advisor resigns his/her position as preceptor, the student will have until the end of that term to find a new advisor. If less than two weeks remain in the term including final examination week, then the student will have until the fifth week of the following term to find a new advisor. After this time, support will be withdrawn (at the end of the term of enrollment) and the student will no longer be in good standing in the department.

# GRADUATE PROGRAMS

## I. DEGREES GRANTED, RESIDENCE AND CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENTS

### A. MASTERS PROGRAM

The student must have a minimum residence of two semesters at The Ohio State University with completion of at least 30 hours of graduate work. The student's course program should be decided in conjunction with the Advisor and follow divisional guidelines. Course work must be at the 6000-9000 level, and the courses in related fields must be acceptable to the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies, the student's advisor, and the student's division. Divisional course requirements for the M.S. degree can be found under the section titled "Course and Examination Requirements for the Sub-disciplines" of this document.

Students will carry out a research program that will culminate with the writing of a thesis. The research program should be initiated upon joining a research group. See Initiation of Research under Ph.D. requirements and Graduate Examinations for various sub-disciplines, for more specific procedures.

A student must submit an "Application to Graduate" form to the Graduate School no later than the third Friday of the semester (or third Friday of May session for summer session commencement) in which graduation is expected. The candidate must pass an oral examination before a committee composed of at least two faculty members from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, including the student's research advisor. Should the graduate record of the candidate be wholly satisfactory to the examining committee, the scope of the examination will be confined to the candidate's field of specialization. The thesis Approval form to the Graduate School and the electronic submission of the approved thesis to OhioLink must be submitted by the deadline published by the Graduate School for the semester or summer session of graduation.

Students working toward an M.S. degree will not receive financial support from the department (GRA, GTA, GAA) after completion of three years in the program.

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry does not award non-thesis M.S. degrees and does not award M.S. degrees on the basis of satisfactorily completing the doctoral candidacy examination.

### B. DOCTORAL PROGRAM

The Graduate School requirements for the Ph.D. degree are stated in Part VII of the Graduate School Handbook (<http://gradsch.osu.edu/section-vii.html>). The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry has several additional requirements and procedures as outlined below. The student may follow either of two paths. The first involves proceeding directly to the Ph.D. degree. The second involves completion of an M.S. degree followed by continuation toward a Ph.D. degree. In either program, the candidate must satisfy the course requirements of one of the divisions of the department, or a designed multidisciplinary course of study, in addition to all departmental requirements.

The purpose of coursework in the Ph.D. program is to prepare the student to take the Candidacy Examination for the Ph.D. degree and to undertake work on a significant original investigation in chemistry and/or biochemistry that culminates in the doctoral dissertation. With the approval of the advisor, a student may elect to meet specific degree requirements in any of the areas in the department, normally the one in which the student's major research effort is planned.

Students initiating graduate studies at The Ohio State University after having received an M.S. degree at another institution can petition to have specific course requirements waived. The student will submit evidence (e.g., syllabi, course notes, and examinations) to the appropriate Division Secretary of having taken a course equivalent to one required by this program. The evidence is evaluated by appropriate faculty, who recommend whether or not the course satisfies requirements in the division of the student's specialization. The recommendation is submitted by the evaluator for approval to the Secretary of the



Division and the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies. Although a course requirement may be waived by a Division, credit cannot be received for the course taken at another institution.

The Ph.D. degree is a research degree, and thus most course work is taken during the first year; usually only selected advanced subjects are taken in the second and subsequent years. Those courses indicated as electives may include those required in other areas by the Division (both inside and outside the department) and, in some cases, additional courses in the major field. Advanced subjects are usually in the major field. Students who elect to take courses outside of chemistry or biochemistry, must obtain required permission from the student's research advisor and the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies before registration, unless the course is required or is listed as an elective by the Division. If the student does not have a research advisor at the time of enrollment to take a specific course outside the department, permission from the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies is required. Students are expected to enroll in research as early as Spring Semester of their first year, and they must do so by the summer term following their first year in graduate school.

Students in good standing in the Graduate School will enroll for either Research in Chemistry (CHEM 8999) or Research in Biochemistry (BIOCHEM 8999), depending on their program and division. Each student should enroll every term for one hour of a seminar course, unless doing so violates the credit hour limits. This course requires regular attendance at departmental and/or divisional seminars.

The broadly defined contents of the Ph.D. curriculum in Chemistry are illustrated in the "Suggested Ph.D. Curriculum" that follows. More specific sample curricula are presented on a divisional basis on following pages. Please keep in mind that many graduate courses will be offered as "half-semester" 7-week classes, such that each semester is divided into two sessions, Session 1 and Session 2. Each 7-week course is typically 1.5 credit hours, such that taking two of these modules will result in 3 credit hours for the semester.

C. SUGGESTED PH.D. CURRICULUM

**Year 1 - Autumn and Spring Semesters**

Autumn Semester		Spring Semester	
Session 1	Session 2	Session 1	Session 2
Major Subject (1.5 hr)	Major Subject (1.5 hr)	Major Subject (1.5 hr)	Major Subject (1.5 hr)
Major/Elective (1.5 hr)	Major/Elective (1.5 hr)	Major/Elective (1.5 hr)	Major/Elective (1.5 hr)
Elective (1.5 hr)	Elective (1.5 hr)	Major/Elective (1.5 hr)	Major/Elective (1.5 hr)
Faculty Presentations (1 hr)	Safety Course (1 hr)		
Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)		Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)	
Research (variable)		Research (variable)	

**Year 1 - Summer Term:** Research (4 hr)

**Year 2 - Autumn and Spring Semesters**

Autumn Semester		Spring Semester	
Session 1	Session 2	Session 1	Session 2
Major/Elective (1.5 hr)	Major/Elective (1.5 hr)	Major/Elective (1.5 hr)	Major/Elective (1.5 hr)
Major/Elective (1.5 hr)	Major/Elective (1.5 hr)	Major/Elective (1.5 hr)	Major/Elective (1.5 hr)
Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)		Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)	
Research (variable)		Research (variable)	

**Year 2 - Summer Term:** Research (4 hr)

**Subsequent Terms:** Research or elective courses\*

\*Please consult the Graduate School Handbook to determine the number of credit hours required to retain the full-time student status, which varies pre- and post-candidacy and when a student is supported by a fellowship.

## **II. DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE**

### **A. FIRST-YEAR ORAL EXAMINATION**

All students pursuing either an M.S. degree or Ph.D. degree must take an oral examination near the end of their first year of study. The focal point of this examination is a paper selected jointly by the student and advisor that is related to the student's research topic. The purpose of this exam is to evaluate the student's progress within the context of an activity that is relevant to their research interests, and to determine whether the student is ready to proceed with further requirements of the Ph.D. program. The administration of the first-year oral examination is outlined below.

1. By the start of the second session of Spring Semester, the Secretary of each division announces to students:
  - (a) dates for administration of the first-year oral examination;
  - (b) possible outcomes of the exam (e.g., proceed to the Ph.D. Candidacy Examination, take a series of written examinations prior to proceeding to the Candidacy Examination, etc.);
  - (c) a three-member committee, or set of three-member committees to give the oral exams.

A single three-member committee of faculty members is typical because all students in a division will be judged by a common standard. However, it may not be practical for a single committee to examine all students in each division.

2. The examination committees attend a brief orientation with the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies to make sure that examinations are conducted consistently within the department.
3. The student and advisor are jointly responsible for selection of a journal article – related to the student's research topic – that will form the basis of the exam. The article may or may not be one published with the advisor as a co-author. In some cases, prior approval of the article by the committee may be required (as defined in Section III of this document). It is a good strategy to choose an article that covers substantial scientific issues, that is not overly difficult. An article that is, for example, a brief communication of measurements will give the examination committee little inspiration for exam questions. In that case, the line of questioning will be less predictable, which will put the student at a disadvantage. The student and advisor are jointly responsible for delivering a copy of the article to the each examination committee member two weeks in advance of the exam period.
4. The Graduate Studies Office, in consultation with committee members and students, will be responsible for scheduling the individual exams. All exams must take place within the specified period unless the student has a valid excuse. Significant life events (e.g., wedding), documented medical excuses, or important scientific activities (e.g., conference) constitute valid excuses.
5. The format of the exam will include a short presentation by the student of no more that 5-10 minutes, followed by approximately one hour of questioning. The student may use the chalkboard, overheads, or computers as part of this presentation (refer to divisional requirements in Section III of this document). The presentation and paper will serve as the starting point for the subject of the questions. Students will be expected discuss the content of the paper and respond to questions about larger concepts underlying research described in the paper. The advisor, if not a member of the committee, can sit in on the exam. The advisor may formulate questions with the permission of the committee, but may not assist the student with answers.
6. After the exam, the student is excused. The exam committee and the advisor will have a brief (5-10 minute) meeting to exchange impressions on the exam. This is very useful for getting a more accurate view of the student's performance and preventing later misunderstandings.

7. Within two working days of the last exam (excluding delayed exams), all examination committees of each division will meet, and based on the student's overall performance on the oral exam and first-year course work, determine whether each student should proceed directly with the Ph.D. program, undergo further evaluation (as defined by each division in Section III of this document), or proceed to a terminal M.S. degree. Forms for communication of the results will be furnished by the Graduate Studies Office.
8. Within three working days of the last exam,\* the results of the exams must be communicated to the division secretaries and the Graduate Studies Office.
9. Within four working days of the last exam,\* the results of the exams will be reported to the students by the Graduate Studies Office.

Repeat exams or extra chances at cumulative exams will only be given in exceptional cases. The student must clearly state the grievance and proposed redress in a petition to the Graduate Studies Committee, who will act on the petition in consultation, and based on the recommendation, of the division(s) administering the exam.

## B. CANDIDACY EXAMINATION

The precise timing of the Candidacy Examination should be determined collectively by the advisor and the student using the following guidelines. Students who have passed the First-Year Oral Examination should initiate the Candidacy Examination no earlier than the spring of their second year and no later than the autumn of their third year. Students requiring further evaluation via cumulative exams should initiate their Candidacy Examination within 6 months of completing cumulative exams. Students requiring further evaluation via completion of an M.S. degree should initiate their Candidacy Examination within six (6) months of completing their M.S. degree. In all circumstances, students must complete their Candidacy Examination by the end of their third year in the program.

The Candidacy Examination offered by the different divisions in the Department of Chemistry vary somewhat in format, as described in sections that follow, but in each case this examination includes both written and oral portions. The examination is a comprehensive test administered by a committee of faculty, and is based on the fundamentals of the broad area of chemistry in which the student is specializing. The student's progress in research may be evaluated by the exam committee (consult Section III). Satisfactory performance in this examination or series of examinations admits the student to candidacy for the doctoral degree at the end of the term in which the exam is passed, or the series concluded.

The written portion of the Candidacy Examination for the Ph.D. takes the form of an original research proposal written by the candidate. The purpose of this written exam is to examine the creative potential of the candidate and their knowledge of relevant literature surrounding the proposed research. The Candidacy Examination committee must indicate approval of the proposal by signing a form (available from the Graduate Studies Office) and a copy of the approved proposal must be filed with the Graduate Studies Office). The details of this examination are delineated in Section III of this document.

The oral portion of the Candidacy Examination for the Ph.D. consists of general questions that may be initiated by the defense of the original written proposal that constitutes the written portion of the Candidacy Examination. The written portion of the Candidacy Exam must be approved by the examination committee three weeks prior to the oral exam. A final draft of the student's written examination must be available to all members of the oral examination committee, including a possible university representative appointed by the Graduate School (see next section), at least two weeks prior to the examination. The candidate shall be judged on the oral examination by his/her performance on the general questions and the defense of his/her research proposal, and research progress, depending on Divisional requirements.

## Procedures for Selection of Candidacy Examination Committee

The Vice Chair for Graduate Studies, with advice from the student's advisor, will assign faculty to the student's committee according to the following procedures.

1. The student's advisor will recommend three faculty members to the Vice Chair, in addition to himself/herself, to serve on the oral committee. Two of the three faculty members in the examination committee will normally be from the student's division.
2. The Vice Chair may select two of the three nominees, or may suggest another faculty member, if inequities exist in the distribution of committee assignments.
3. When required by division rules, the Vice Chair will also assign a committee member from outside the division. A university representative will sometimes be assigned by the Dean of the Graduate School.
4. The Vice Chair will notify the advisor of those individuals who will serve on the committee, and the advisor (not the student) will arrange a time and location for the exam in consultation with his/her colleagues, and the Vice Chair's office. The appropriate form (Doctoral Notification of Candidacy Examination form) will be prepared by the Vice Chair's office and the advisor/student must file this form with the Graduate School at least two weeks prior to the examination date.

## C. DISSERTATION

The dissertation resulting from the student's graduate research must represent significant contribution to knowledge in chemistry. Its importance should be sufficient to warrant the acceptance for publication of a paper based upon it by one of the respected journals of chemistry or a related scientific area. A reading committee composed of the advisor and at least two graduate faculty members (often members of the student's Advisory Committee) will consider the merit of the dissertation in detail. The student's advisor selects this committee.

## D. FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

On approval of the dissertation by the advisor and the reading committee, a final oral examination, based largely on the dissertation work, will be held in accord with the Graduate School guidelines. The examination committee will consist of the members of the dissertation reading committee, and a graduate faculty member nominated by the Dean of the Graduate School from a department other than Chemistry. A unanimous vote of all committee members is required for a satisfactory decision.

### **III. COURSE AND EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUBDISCIPLINES**

With the approval of his/her advisor, a student may elect to satisfy the specific graduate degree requirements in any one of the areas of chemistry and biochemistry (i.e., division) in the department. Alternatively, the student and advisor may jointly propose a multidisciplinary program for the student by submitting an application for the "Multidisciplinary Track" for evaluation and approval by the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies.

The examination procedures employed by the different divisions are defined in the following sections. Each of the procedures allows an early delineation of the final study plan and the nature of the degree to which the student's effort will lead. Divisional requirements, such as satisfactory performance on a qualifying examination or presentation of seminars, are supplemental to the departmental requirements.

## A. ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

The degree programs available to students in Analytical Chemistry are M.S. and Ph.D. Students may pursue and earn a Ph.D. degree without receiving an M.S. degree.

### **Ph.D. Degree**

#### **Course and credit hour requirements**

A Ph.D. candidate is required to take the courses listed below, in addition to graduate courses recommended by his/her advisor.

*Required Analytical courses:* Chem 6110, Chem 6120, and 9 credits of Chem 71xx

*Electives:* 6 credit hours outside the division (level >5000)

*Other required courses:* Chem 6780, Chem 6781, Chem 8899

#### **Typical Progress Timeline and Seminar Requirements**

Year one: Take required courses; attend faculty research presentations and choose an advisor; take safety course and attend seminars; begin thesis research; complete summer literature oral exam at the beginning of first summer; present research poster at end of first summer.

Year two: Literature seminar presentation; complete M.S. degree if assigned by first-year oral committee; continue thesis research. Complete Ph.D. Candidacy exam

Years three and four: Complete Ph.D. Candidacy exam if not finished in year two; thesis research, and seminar presentation (research-in-progress).

#### **Sample Curriculum for First and Second Year Students**

##### **Year 1**

<b>Autumn 1 (7 weeks)</b>	<b>Autumn 2 (7 weeks)</b>
Chem 6110 Survey Instrumental Methods (1.5)	Chem 6120 Analytical Data Treatment (1.5)
Core Elective	Elective
Chem 7130 Separations or Chem 7150 Mass Spectrometry (3, taught every other year)	
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar (1)	
Chem 6780 Faculty research presentations (1)	Chem 6781 Laboratory Safety (1)
<b>Spring 1 (7 weeks)</b>	<b>Spring 2 (7 weeks)</b>
Chem 7120 Electrochemistry or Surface Science (3, taught every other year)	
Chem 7140 Spectroscopy or Chem 7160 NMR (3, taught every other year)	
Elective	Elective
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar (1)	
Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)	

##### **Summer**

Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)

##### **Year 2**

Elective Courses within the division, Chem 71xx (see required credit hours)
Elective Courses outside division (see required credit hours)
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar (1)
Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)

## **Analytical Chemistry Course Information**

### **Fall Semester (every year)**

Chem 6110 (Required) Survey of Instrumental Methods – *Introduction to instrumental analytical methods, including optical spectroscopy, mass spectrometry, surface spectrometry, microprobe methods, and separation science concepts relevant to chemical analysis. Not available for undergraduate credit.*

Chem 6120 Analytical Data Treatment – *Principles and practice of data acquisition, processing, and analysis in chemical research. Not open to students with credit for 720.*

### **Fall Semester (even academic year)**

Chem 7130 Separations – *Introductory course in analytical separation science: principles of chromatographic and electrophoretic processes. Not open to students with credit for 822.*

### **Spring Semester (even academic year)**

Chem 7120 Electrochemistry – *Electrochemical methods for trace analysis of species, including current/voltage relationships based on activation and diffusion control, electrode kinetics, and reaction mechanisms. Not open to students with credit for 821.*

Chem 7140 Spectroscopy – *Principles for measurement of interactions of electromagnetic radiation with matter, including classical & quantum mechanical principles, group theory, and principles and applications of atomic and molecular spectroscopy. Not open to students with credit for 823.*

### **Fall Semester (odd academic year)**

Chem 7150 Mass Spectrometry – *Advanced course on modern mass spectrometric methods and applications to chemical and biological sciences. Not open to students with credit for 825.*

### **Spring Semester (odd academic year)**

Chem 7160 NMR Spectroscopy – *Introduction to NMR spectroscopy for structural studies including nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy in the context of chemical and biochemical structural studies. Not open to students with credit for 824.*

Chem 7170 Surface Science – *Introduction to instrumentation and techniques for the chemical and physical analysis of surfaces.*

Chem 8199 Advanced Topics in Analytical Chemistry. *Topic varies by instructor and offering.*

### **Elective courses outside the division may include, but are not limited to:**

Biological Chemistry 7220; Inorganic Chemistry 6320, 6330, 7320, 7360; Organic Chemistry 6440, 7440; Physical Chemistry 6520, 6530, 7520, 7540, 7550

### **Other Requirements**

To proceed toward a Ph.D. degree without obtaining the M.S. degree students must make satisfactory progress as follows:

- The student must be enrolled in the Graduate School and maintain a 3.0 GPA at the end of the second semester of the first academic year and all terms thereafter.
- The student must have selected a research advisor by the end of the first semester of the first academic year and must remain in a research group thereafter.
- During the summer following the first academic year, the student must present a poster on his/her research carried out during the first academic year.
- The student must complete 14 hours of lecture courses (graded A thru E) during the autumn and spring semesters of the first academic year. A minimum of 9 of these credits must be at the 7000 level or above.
- The student must pass the First-Year Oral Examination (see below).



### ***First Year Research Project***

Each student seeking to earn the Ph.D. degree is expected to begin research upon joining a research group. The choice of such a project will be made in consultation with the student's advisor. A poster session will be held at the end of the summer term in which the first year students will have the opportunity to report on their progress and to discuss their research with other students and faculty. All first year students must present a poster. A brief written description of the poster presentation shall be provided, in advance, to the analytical division secretary.

### ***Student Seminars***

Students seeking to earn a Ph.D. degree are expected to present seminars to the analytical division during their second and final years in the program, as part of the requirement for Chemistry 8899. The second year seminar will generally be 30 minutes long on a topic determined by the student and his advisor, and will be evaluated by both faculty and students in attendance.

### ***First-Year Oral Examination***

The first-year oral examination will typically occur one week after finals week for spring semester, and will last approximately one hour. The structure of this examination will involve the student choosing (in consultation with their advisor) a published paper to present orally and evaluate critically. The chosen paper must receive prior approval by the examination committee. The examination committee will consist of three analytical faculty members with one alternate (the research advisor is not to be among the 3 person committee). The student may make a five-minute presentation and may use chalk and the chalkboard for the remainder of the exam.

Based on the exam performance, course grades, and early research progress, three exam outcomes are possible: (1) proceed directly to the Ph.D.; (2) completion of a M.S. degree before proceeding to the Ph.D.; or (3) stop graduate studies after completion of a terminal M.S. degree. The exam outcomes will not be decided until all students have taken the examination. All students who take the oral exam will be provided feedback on the results of their examination.

### ***Candidacy Examination***

The student will write and defend an original research proposal that will be followed by a general question period by the examination committee.

The ongoing and contemplated research problems in the advisor's group cannot be used for proposed topics. However, this does not necessarily exclude proposals in the broad area of the advisor's research program. At least one month before the oral exam, the student will submit an abstract to the committee members in the Chemistry Department for approval of the research topic. At least three weeks prior to the examination the student is to submit to the committee a detailed description of the proposed research. This should include Objective (½ page), Background (1½ pages), Project Description and Data Analysis (14 pages) and References (1 page). This document must be approved by the committee prior to scheduling the oral defense of the proposal. The document describing the proposed research will constitute the written portion of the candidacy exam for analytical students. The defense of this proposal will constitute the oral portion of the candidacy exam.

### **M.S. Degree**

Students who intend to terminate graduate studies after the M.S. degree follow this degree program. It is also followed by students whose early graduate performance indicates that completion of a thesis problem and writing of a M.S. thesis would be of considerable help in advancing their academic program and students who cannot complete a given requirement of the Ph.D. program. For example, students who do not pass the Candidacy Examination portion of the Ph.D. program often complete the thesis M.S. degree program. The minimum requirements for the M.S. Degree are completion of 30 credit hours. Other courses may be required by the advisor as required for the student to gain expertise aligned with the thesis project. The student must also write an M.S. thesis and defend this thesis (oral examination)

## B. BIOCHEMISTRY

M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs in Chemistry are available to students in the Biochemistry division. Students may pursue and earn a Ph.D. degree without receiving an M.S. degree.

### **Ph.D. Degree**

#### **Course and credit hour requirements**

The minimum course requirements consist of (1) Ten credit hours of core biochemistry graduate courses. Biochem 5701, Biochem 6761, Biochem 6762 and Biochem 6763 are strongly recommended. (2) At least 4.5 additional credit hours in biochemistry or related disciplines. These courses should be selected with the advisor and chosen from those listed in the offerings of the department. Elective courses from outside of the department may count toward this requirement with approval of the Biochemistry division. (3) Three credit hours of core electives outside the Biochemistry division, preferably including topics in physical organic chemistry and/or physical chemistry (especially thermodynamics and kinetics). (4) All Biochemistry division students should enroll in an appropriate seminar course each academic semester.

#### **Typical Progress Timeline**

Year one: Take core and elective courses; attend faculty research presentations and choose an advisor by the end of autumn semester; take safety course; attend seminars; attend the student seminar series; begin thesis research; complete summer literature oral exam.

Year two: Finish elective courses; complete written cumulative exams if assigned; complete general exam (preferably by the end of the summer of the second year); thesis research; attend seminars; attend the student seminar series and give a literature presentation.

Year three: Complete general exam if not completed in year two; thesis research; attend seminar; attend the student seminar series and give a research presentation (Research-In-Progress).

Year four and beyond: Thesis research; attend seminars. Students should expect to present their dissertation research to the department in an appropriate seminar series or with an open presentation at the beginning of the Final Oral Exam.

#### **Proposed Curriculum**

##### **Year 1**

<b>Autumn 1 (7 weeks)</b>	<b>Autumn 2 (7 weeks)</b>
Out-of-division Chemistry Core Course (1.5 hr)	Out-of-division Chemistry Course (1.5 hr)
Biochem 6761 Macromolecular Structure-Function A (3 hrs)	
Biochem 5701 DNA Transactions & Regulation of Gene Expression (4 hrs)	
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar (CSMB/Bioiphsysics) (1 hr)	
Chem 6780 Faculty research presentations	Chem 6781 Laboratory Safety
<b>Spring 1 (7 weeks)</b>	<b>Spring 2 (7 weeks)</b>
Biochem 6762 Biochemistry of Enzymes (1.5 hrs)	Biochem 6763 Lipids and Membranes (1.5 hrs)
Elective Course (1.5 hrs)	Elective Course (1.5 hrs)
Chem 8892 Biochemistry Division Student Seminar or Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)	
Chem 8999 Research or Biochem 8999 Research	
<b>Summer</b>	
Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)	

<b>Year 2</b>
Elective Courses No. 3 (1.5-3 hrs)
Chem 8892 Biochemistry Division Student Seminar or Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)
Chem 8999 Research or Biochem 8999 Research

### **Possible elective chemistry core courses outside the division**

All the core courses in the Autumn 1 and Autumn 2 sessions offered by other divisions (Chem 6x10-6x40, 1.5 hrs). Preferable ones include:

- Chem 6410 Basic Organic Reaction Mechanisms (1.5 hrs)
- Chem 6440 Introduction to Physical Organic Chemistry (1.5 hrs)
- Chem 6520 Thermodynamics (1.5 hrs)
- Chem 6530 Kinetics (1.5 hrs)

### **Other Available Elective Courses:**

- Biochem 6764 Advanced Biochemistry: Metabolism (1.5 or 3 hrs)
- Biochem 6765 Advanced Biochemistry: Physical Biochemistry (1.5 or 3 hrs)
- Biochem 7766 Advanced Biochemistry: Nucleic Acids (1.5 or 3 hrs)
- Biochem 7770 Advanced Biochemistry: Protein Engineering
- Biochem 7775 Special Topics in Biophysical Chemistry (1.5 or 3 hrs)
- Biochem 8821 Advanced Enzymology (1.5 or 3 hrs)
- Biochem 8900 Advanced Biochemistry: Biomolecular NMR (1.5 or 3 hrs)
- Biochem 8990 Advanced Topics in Biochemistry
- Chem 7220 Bioorganic Chemistry of Enzyme Catalysis (1.5 hrs)
- Chem 7230 Chemical Biology (1.5 hrs)
- Chem 7360 Bioinorganic Chemistry (1.5 hrs)
- Micro 8050 RNA World (1.5 hrs)
- Micro 7060 Advanced Topics in Molecular Microbiology

This is a sample program only. The particular program to be followed must be decided on in consultation with the faculty advisor and must conform to the divisional guidelines given herein. Most students should take Biochem 6761 (Macromolecular Structure and Function) and Biochem 5701 (DNA Transactions), and two 7-week elective core courses outside the division during the first semester.

### **Seminar Requirements**

Students in the Biochemistry division are expected to enroll in an appropriate seminar series in the department each academic semester. Students must give one literature presentation and one research-in-progress presentation to the division by the end of the third year. Students in their first, second and third years will enroll in and attend the divisional student seminar series, usually in the spring semester. Typically, students will give a literature presentation in their second year and a research presentation in their third year in the student series. All students are expected to present their dissertation research to the entire division, either in one of the biochemistry seminar series or in an open portion of the Final Oral Exam. Note that students first to third year students who enroll in the student seminar series in spring are expected to attend the appropriate RFG (e.g., CSMB/Biophysics) seminar series, as well.

### **Other Requirements**

To proceed toward a Ph.D. degree without obtaining the M.S. degree, students must make satisfactory progress as follows:

- The student must be enrolled in the Graduate School and maintain a 3.0 GPA at the end of the second semester of the first academic year and all terms thereafter.
- The student must have selected a research advisor by the end of the first semester of the first academic year and must remain in a research group thereafter.

- The student should complete the required and elective courses by the end of the second year, and certainly by the time of the candidacy exam.
- The student must pass the First-Year Oral Examination and accumulate any necessary additional points by cumulative exams by the end of the second year (see below).

### ***First-Year Oral Examination***

This exam will take place soon (at least two weeks) after the end of the spring term. The exam will last for approximately one hour. The student, in consultation with the advisor, will choose a published paper related to his/her research. The chosen paper must be approved by the committee two weeks before the exam. The student will present the paper in 5-10 minutes using only chalk and the chalkboard; no overheads or computerized slides may be used. The student will be asked questions on the paper and background pertaining to the subject area of the paper. The committee members will evaluate the student's performance. The examination committee will consist of three faculty designated by the Biochemistry division. The advisor may attend the examination, and help the committee formulate the questions for the student, but cannot assist the student in any manner. After the examination, the committee and the student's advisor will have a brief meeting to exchange impressions on the examination. The committee will assign 1 to 5 points based on a combination of the student's overall performance on the oral exam, course work during the first year and other factors. A score of 5 points will be required for the student to proceed to the Candidacy Exam.

Based on performance in the oral examination, a recommendation will be made by the committee on whether the student can proceed to the Candidacy Exam, must complete a terminal Master's degree, or must be further evaluated by taking cumulative examinations. Feedback from the committee will be provided to the students by the Graduate Studies office.

To make accumulate sufficient points to proceed to the candidacy exam, students needing further evaluation will take a series of cumulative examinations. These "cumes" will be offered on an announced date in September, October, November, January, February, and April. Students will be awarded 0, 0.5, or 1 point on each exam. The student will have six chances to accumulate five total points (including points awarded by the first-year oral examination committee). Students who fail to accumulate five points by the end of the spring term of the second year will be directed to complete a terminal M.S. degree, except in rare cases when the division faculty determine that further graduate work would be fruitful and in the student's best interest.

### ***Candidacy Examination***

In the general examination, the student presents and defends an original research proposal in an area other than that of the student's thesis work before the members of an examining committee set up for each student. In general, the student should not choose a research area that is an active area of investigation in the student's lab. The Vice Chair selects the members of the committee based on the recommendation of the advisor, according to the procedures specified in section II.B. Two of the committee members must be from the Biochemistry division; the third member must be a faculty member within the department; and the fourth member may be from the department or another unit on campus. Students are encouraged to take this part of the general examination within one term of passing their final cumulative examination, ideally by the end of the second year and certainly by the end of the third year.

Before preparing the written proposal, the student is required to (1) submit to each member of the examination committee a proposal abstract (maximum of 300 words) that clearly outlines the problem, aims and research strategy, and (2) obtain approval from each committee member for the proposed study. The written proposal should follow the NIH postdoctoral grant format (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/416/phs416-1.pdf>). The proposal (including figures, schemes, charts, and other illustrations) is limited to 10 single-spaced pages. The font should be 11-point Arial. The margin should be at least 0.5" on each side. The references, which should be in the *Biochemistry* journal

style and include the full title of the article, are not counted toward the 10-page limit. The document describing the proposed research will constitute the written portion of the Candidacy Exam. Members of the exam committee will provide a critique of the proposal to the student within two weeks of receiving the proposal. The candidacy committee must unanimously approve this document prior to scheduling the oral portion of the Candidacy Examination, and a final draft of the document must be available to all members of the committee (including the university representative appointed by the Graduate School, if applicable) two weeks prior to the oral examination.

The advisor and student are responsible for arranging a time and location for the oral exam. In the oral portion of the candidacy exam, the committee will ask general questions to evaluate the research proposal and the student's knowledge of the entire area of biochemistry plus any areas related to the student's research. Students may bring up to five slides in any format (printed handouts, PowerPoint, etc.) to aid in the discussion of the proposal; however, the entire exam will consist of questions from the committee.

### **M.S. Degree in Chemistry (Thesis option)**

This program is followed by students who intend to terminate graduate studies after the M.S. degree, by students whose early graduate performance indicates that completion of a thesis problem and writing of a M.S. thesis would advance their academic program, and by students who cannot complete a given requirement of the Ph.D. program. For example, students who do not pass the Candidacy Examination portion of the Ph.D. program often complete the thesis M.S. degree program. The course requirements for the M.S. Degree in Chemistry with emphasis on Biochemistry are as follows.

#### *Core requirements*

- Biochem 5701 (4 hrs)
- Biochem 6761 (3 hrs)
- Biochem 6262 (1.5 hrs)
- Biochem 6763 (1.5 hrs)

#### *Electives*

A total of at least 20 hours required at the graduate level and must include two Chem 6x10-6x40 (1.5 hrs) core courses outside the division.

*Other electives may include the following:*

- Biochem 7770 (1.5 hrs)
- Biochem 6999 or Chem 8999 (at least 3.5 hrs)

These elective courses may consist of research courses or other graduate level courses required by the student's research advisor. The Graduate School requires the completion of a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours over a period of at least two semesters for the M.S. degree.

The student must also write an M.S. thesis describing original research and defend this thesis in front of a committee consisting of their advisor and one other faculty member from the department.

## C. INORGANIC CHEMISTRY

The degree programs available to students in Inorganic Chemistry are M.S. and Ph.D. Students may pursue and earn a Ph.D. degree without receiving an M.S. degree.

### **Ph.D. Degree**

#### **Course and credit hour requirements**

A Ph.D. candidate is required to take the courses listed below, in addition to graduate courses recommended by his/her advisor.

*Required Inorganic courses:* Chem 6310, Chem 6320, Chem 6330, Chem 6340, and at least two Chem 73xx half-semester courses. At least four 7000 level courses, including at least two from the inorganic offerings and up to four other approved half-semester classes are required.

*Electives:* 3 hrs of Chem 6xxx in Autumn and up to 6 hrs outside the division (level  $\geq$  6xxx)

*Other required courses:* Chem 6780, Chem 6781, Chem 8899

#### **Typical Progress Timeline and Seminar Requirements**

Year one: Take required courses; attend faculty research presentations and choose an advisor; take safety course and attend seminars; begin thesis research; complete summer literature oral exam.

Year two: Literature seminar presentation; complete M.S. degree if assigned by first-year oral committee; continue thesis research.

Years three and four: Complete Ph.D. Candidacy exam; thesis research, and seminar presentation (research-in-progress).

#### **Sample Curriculum for First and Second Year Students**

##### ***Year 1***

<b>Autumn 1</b>	<b>Autumn 2</b>
6310 Fundamentals of Coordination Chemistry	6320 Synthetic Princ. in Inorganic Chemistry
6340 Physical Methods in Inorganic Chemistry	6330 Group Theory and Bonding
Core elective	Elective
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar	
Chem 6780 Faculty research presentations	Chem 6781 Laboratory Safety
<b>Spring 1</b>	<b>Spring 2</b>
Chem 7320 Organometallic Chemistry	Chem 7360 Bioinorganic Chemistry
Chem 7330 Solid State Chemistry	7000-level Inorganic elective from list below
Elective	Elective
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)	
Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)	

##### **Summer**

Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)

##### ***Year 2***

Elective Courses
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)
Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)

**Spring 2** - courses offered periodically; every two or three years depending on demand

**7350** *Inorganic Photochemistry*

**7340** *Diffraction Methods*

**7370** *Nanochemistry and Nanomaterials*

**7380** *Organic Materials*

**8399** *Advanced Topics*

### ***Student Seminars***

Students seeking to earn a Ph.D. degree are expected to present departmental seminars during their second and fourth years in the program, as part of the requirement for Chemistry 8899. The second year seminar will generally be 30 minutes long and the fourth year seminar will be 50 minutes long. The subject of both seminars will be research progress on the student's project.

### ***First-Year Oral Examination***

The examination of all inorganic first-year students will occur early in the Summer Term. This will be an oral examination and will last approximately one hour. The structure of this examination requires a student to select a published paper that has been approved by the student's advisor. The student will give an oral presentation and critical evaluation of the content of the paper. The student will be asked questions by the committee on the contents of the paper as well as general background material pertaining to the subject matter of the paper. The examination committee will consist of three inorganic faculty members (the research advisor may be among the 3 person committee). The exam outcomes will not be decided until all students have taken the examination. All students who take the oral exam will be provided feedback on the results of their examination.

Based on the exam performance, course grades, and early research progress, three exam outcomes are possible: (1) proceed directly to the Ph.D.; (2) completion of a M.S. degree before proceeding to the Ph.D.; or (3) stop graduate studies after completion of a terminal M.S. degree. Students who are required to complete an M.S. degree first must defend their thesis by the end of summer term of their second year.

### ***Candidacy Examination***

Following a satisfactory evaluation in the first- year oral examination, or completion of an M.S. thesis (if required), a student may proceed to the Ph.D. Candidacy Examination. The decision on who may proceed to the Ph.D. will be predicated on the successful completion of the Ph.D. Candidacy Examination. The candidacy exam must be successfully completed by the end of the student's third year. For the candidacy examination, the student will write and defend an original research proposal that will be followed by a general question period by the examination committee.

The Candidacy Examination consists of two parts. The first part is the completion of an original written research proposal that has been approved by the student's candidacy committee. The second part is an oral examination that will probe the student's grasp of concepts in the written proposal as well as the student's understanding of general topics in chemistry, including progress in thesis research.

The ongoing and contemplated research problems in the advisor's group cannot be used for proposed topics. However, this does not necessarily exclude proposals in the broad area of the advisor's research program. At least one month before the oral exam, the student will submit an abstract to the committee members and the division secretary for approval of the research topic. The members of the committee and the division secretary must approve the topic within one week of submission.

At least three weeks prior to the examination the student is to submit to the committee a detailed description of the proposed research. The written proposal must clearly define an original research problem and explain why its solution will be significant to the field of inorganic chemistry. It should be limited to 12 pages. It is suggested that it contain an abstract stating the research problem, 3-5 pages of background and motivation, and 5-6 pages of proposed research and analysis. This document must be approved by the committee prior to scheduling the oral defense of the proposal. Appropriate responses from faculty members on the committee will be made to the candidate within one week. The response may consist of evaluation, criticism, and/or suggestions. The candidate must obtain the approval of the committee, by signature of an approval form, at least two weeks prior to the exam and this will constitute passing the written part of the exam. The student is reminded that Graduate School rules require these exams to be scheduled at least two weeks in advance.

The document describing the proposed research will constitute the written portion of the candidacy exam. When the proposal is approved, the student has passed the written portion of the Candidacy Examination and their advisor may then set a date for the oral examination. The defense of this proposal will constitute the oral portion of the candidacy exam.

The student must also prepare a research summary and provide it to their committee at least one week prior to the date of the oral examination. The examination session will run for no more than two hours and is mainly concerned with testing the fundamental knowledge and preparation of the student in his/her chosen discipline. The first half of the oral examination may involve questions relating to and discussion of the research proposal submitted by the candidate. Thereafter, questions will be of a more general nature, ranging over fundamental chemical subjects and detailed aspects of inorganic chemistry and the student's progress in research. Students should also be prepared to describe their research project briefly on the board.

Students should expect to be interrupted during their presentation by questions related to the proposal as well as general chemistry within their discipline and those that probe understanding of their own research project, including ideas for future directions and solutions to current problems in the lab. The student is free to consult with peers and with those members of the faculty who will not be serving on the student's examination committee in preparation for this exam.

The Ph.D. Candidacy Examination is evaluated based on academic and research ability. Defense of the proposal, performance with general questions, and demonstration of an understanding of the research project and research achievements will all be considered in the oral examination. Students may pass only part of the oral examination, and in certain situations, may be asked to repeat part of or the entire exam. For example, if the student has suitably defended the proposal but has not made sufficient research progress or does not possess sufficient general knowledge, he or she may be asked to repeat the research report and evaluation section of the oral portion of the Candidacy Examination after additional time spent in the lab. The timetable for reevaluation will be determined by the examination committee on a case-by-case basis, but should not extend beyond three months from the date of the original exam.

### ***Dissertation Defense and Seminars***

By the time a student reaches this stage, he or she will be the expert in some area within a subdiscipline of modern chemistry. After writing the dissertation in conjunction with the student's major professor, he or she will discuss the research before a dissertation committee that will be composed of the advisor and at least two graduate faculty members (often members of the student's Advisory Committee) who will consider the merit of the dissertation in detail. The student's advisor selects this committee.

In addition, students are required to present two seminars before the inorganic students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty so that we can learn about your contributions to our knowledge of chemistry. The first seminar will be ~30 min long during the student's second year, and the final seminar will be a full 45-50 min seminar during the fourth year.



## **M.S. Degree**

Students who intend to terminate graduate studies after the M.S. degree follow this degree program. The M.S. program is also followed by students whose early graduate performance indicates that completion of a thesis problem and writing of a M.S. thesis would be of considerable help in advancing their academic program and students who cannot complete a given requirement of the Ph.D. program. For example, students who do not pass the Candidacy Examination portion of the Ph.D. program often complete the thesis M.S. degree program. In the M.S. program, the candidate must conduct independent research under the guidance of an advisor, prepare and present his/her thesis and demonstrate that it adds new knowledge to some area of chemistry.

The candidate is required to complete 15 hours of graduate course work in chemistry (5000-level and above) including the following required Inorganic courses. Inorganic elective courses are also listed below.

### *Required*

- Chem 6310 Fundamentals of Coordination Chemistry (1.5 hr)
- Chem 6320 Synthetic Principles in Inorganic Chemistry (1.5 hr)
- Chem 6330 Group Theory and Bonding (1.5 hr)
- Chem 6340 Physical Methods in Inorganic Chemistry (1.5 hr)

### *Electives*

- Chem 7320 Organometallic Chemistry (1.5 hr)
- Chem 7330 Solid State Chemistry (1.5 hr)
- Chem 7340 *Diffraction Methods* (1.5 hr)
- Chem 7350 *Inorganic Photochemistry* (1.5 hr)
- Chem 7360 *Bioinorganic Chemistry* (1.5 hr)
- Chem 7370 *Nanochemistry and Nanomaterials* (1.5 hr)
- Chem 7380 *Organic Materials* (1.5 hr)

Part of the 15 hours of course work may be in related fields if they are acceptable to the Graduate Committee of the Department of Chemistry. Thesis work will require a minimum of 10 additional credit hours in Chemistry 8999. The total credit hours must be a minimum of 30 hours. Students not continuing on to the Ph.D. degree are expected to pursue this M.S. program. The student must write an M.S. thesis describing original research and defend this thesis as an oral examination in front of a committee consisting of their advisor and one other faculty member.

## D. ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

The degree programs available to students in Organic Chemistry are M.S. and Ph.D. Students may pursue and earn a Ph.D. degree without receiving an M.S. degree.

### **Ph.D. Degree**

#### **Course and credit hour requirements**

A Ph.D. candidate is required to take the courses listed below, in addition to graduate courses recommended by his/her advisor.

*Required Organic courses:* Chem 6410, 6420, 6430, 6440, 7430, 7440, 7450, 7460, and 5420.

*Electives:* At least 3 credit hours, which may include Chem 7470, 8499 or courses outside the division (level >6000).

*Other required courses:* Chem 6780, Chem 6781, Chem 8899

#### **Typical Progress Timeline and Seminar Requirements**

Year one: Take required courses; attend faculty research presentations and choose an advisor; take safety course and attend seminars; begin thesis research.

Year two: Complete written cumulative exams and/or M.S. degree if assigned by first-year oral committee; continue thesis research.

Years three and four: Complete Ph.D. Candidacy exam; thesis research, and seminar presentation.

#### **Proposed Curriculum**

##### ***Year 1 - Required Courses***

<b>Autumn 1</b>	<b>Autumn 2</b>
6410 Basic Organic Reaction Mechanisms	6430 Introduction to Organic Synthesis
6420 Stereochemistry and Conform. Analysis	6440 Introduction to Physical Organic Chemistry
Core elective	Elective
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar	
Chem 6780 Faculty research presentations	Chem 6781 Laboratory Safety
<b>Spring 1</b>	<b>Spring 2</b>
Chem 7430 Advanced Organic Synthesis	Chem 7460 Adv. Organic Reaction Mechanisms
Chem 7440 Kin., Cat., and Trans. State Theory	Chem 7450 Metals in Organic Synthesis
Chem 5420	Elective
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar	
Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)	

##### **Summer**

Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)

##### ***Year 2***

Electives
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar
Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)

##### ***Optional organic courses***

Chem 7470 Computational Chemistry

Chem 8499 Special Topics

**Course requirements:**

In addition to the required courses listed above, at least 3 credit hours of an elective course are required

**First-Year Oral Examination**

Students will take an oral examination during the first or second week of the summer term of their first year. The examination will last 60 minutes and the focal point of the examination will be a paper selected jointly by the student and his/her advisor. It is expected that the paper will be from organic chemistry literature that is related to the planned thesis research. The student will submit a copy of the paper to the committee (defined below) at least two weeks prior to the examination. The oral examination will start with a short presentation (5-10 minutes) by the student, highlighting the salient features of the paper. The rest of the examination will be devoted to the student answering questions from the committee members and discussing the broader issues underlying the research described in the paper. The questions will be directed principally toward the topic of the paper, but some general questions may also be asked if the answer to these questions help the student address specific issues related to the paper. The advisor may attend the examination, but may not participate in questioning or assist the student in any manner. After the examination, the committee and the student's advisor will have a brief meeting to exchange impressions on the examination.

Within two working days of the last examination in the division, the committee will meet and assign a point value (1-5) to each student based on his/her overall performance on the oral exam and first-year (graduate) course work. A total of five (5) points will be required to proceed to the Ph.D. Candidacy Examination. The score assigned by the examination committee will determine whether each student should:

- (a) proceed directly to the Ph.D. program;
- (b) take cumulative examinations to make up the deficient points. These examinations will be offered on an announced date during October, November, January, February, April, and May. Students will be awarded 0.0, 0.5, or 1.0 point on each exam. The student will have six (6) chances to collect a total of five (5) points including those awarded by the first-year oral examination committee. Students who fail to obtain the five points by the end of the spring term of the second year will be asked to complete a terminal M.S. degree, except in rare cases when the division faculty, in consultation with the student's advisor, determines that further graduate work is warranted. In that case, the student may petition the division to proceed to Ph.D., but only after obtaining the M. S. degree;
- (c) proceed to a terminal M.S. degree.

Within three working days of the last of the first-year oral examinations, the results will be communicated to the organic division secretary and the graduate office. A single committee of current faculty will administer all the first-year examinations during a specific academic year. An alternate member will be appointed by the division secretary if the student's advisor is a member of the examination committee.

**Candidacy Examination**

There are two stages to the Candidacy Exam in the Organic Division. The first part is the completion of an original written research proposal that has been approved by the student's thesis committee. The second part is an oral examination that will probe the student's grasp of concepts in the written proposal, as well as their understanding of general topics in chemistry, including progress in thesis research.

One of the requirements for admission to Ph.D. candidacy in Organic Chemistry is the successful defense of a research proposal and demonstration of research aptitude through accomplishments in the laboratory. Prior to setting the date of the examination, the student must submit an original research proposal for review and approval by the examination committee. When the proposal is approved, the student has passed the written portion of the Candidacy Examination and their advisor may then set a

date for the oral examination. The student must also prepare a research summary and provide it to their committee at least one week prior to the date of the oral examination. Students will prepare a 20 minute PowerPoint presentation of their proposal and should be able to describe their research project briefly on the board and with a few key slides, if necessary. The student should expect to be interrupted during their presentation by questions related to the proposal as well as general organic chemistry and questions that probe understanding of their own research project, including ideas for future directions and solutions to current problems in the lab. The student is free to consult with peers and with those members of the faculty who will not be serving on the student's examination committee in preparation for this exam.

The Ph.D. Candidacy Examination is evaluated based on academic and research ability. Defense of the proposal, performance with general questions, and demonstration of an understanding of the research project and research achievements will all be considered in the oral examination. Students may pass only part of the oral examination, and in certain situations, may be asked to repeat part of or all the exam. For example, if the student has suitably defended the proposal but has not made sufficient research progress or does not possess sufficient general knowledge, that student may be asked to repeat the research report and evaluation section of the oral portion of the Candidacy Examination after additional time spent in the lab. The timetable for reevaluation will be determined by the examination committee on a case-by-case basis, but should not extend beyond three months from the date of the original exam.

### **Seminar Presentation**

After passing the candidacy exam, each student will present a one-hour seminar, following the guidelines established by the division. In planning the seminar and prior to the presentation, the student should consult with the division faculty member in charge of student seminars during the term in which the seminar will be presented to obtain approval. This faculty member, in addition to helping the student with the technical aspects of the presentation, should make sure that the guidelines are followed. The responsible faculty member in consultation with other members of the division will assign a grade (S or U) for the seminar. If the performance is judged unsatisfactory, the student will be asked to repeat the presentation to available organic faculty members.

The focus of the seminar will be the student's Ph.D. thesis research project. The talk should last 45-50 minutes and the student may choose any of the standard formats for presentation, including presentation software such as PowerPoint, blackboards, or overheads. The first part of the talk (20-30 minutes) should include a thorough review of the literature with the goal of providing a meaningful context and global perspective for current and future work. The material gathered for this review should be appropriate for and may eventually be used as introductory sections of the student's thesis. For the remaining portion of the talk, a progress report on the student's research accomplishments should be presented. The student should distribute a concise and carefully worded abstract (1-2 pages) before the beginning of the seminar.

### **M.S. Degree**

In the M.S. program, the candidate must conduct independent research under the guidance of an advisor, prepare and present his/her thesis and demonstrate that it adds new knowledge to some area of chemistry. The candidate must complete a minimum of 30 hours of course work in chemistry (6000-level and above) including the following organic courses: Chemistry 6410, 6420, 6430, 6440, and 9 credits of 7000-level courses. Thesis work requires a minimum of 15 credit hours in Chemistry 8999. Students completing this program must write and defend a thesis.

The Graduate School requires the completion of a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours over a period of at least two semesters for the M.S. degree.

## E. PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

The degree programs available to students in Physical Chemistry are M.S. and Ph.D. Students may pursue and earn a Ph.D. degree without receiving an M.S. degree.

### **Ph.D. Degree**

#### **Course and credit hour requirements**

The Ph.D. student in physical chemistry will normally take at least 21 hours of graduate course work, including courses in the area of physical chemistry and electives.

A Ph.D. candidate typically takes the courses listed below, in addition to graduate courses recommended by his/her advisor.

*Typical Physical Chemistry courses:* Chem 6510, 6520, 6530, 6540, 6330, 7520, and 7550.

*Chemistry Electives:* Typical electives are listed below.

*Required courses:* Chem 6780, Chem 6781, Chem 8899

#### **Typical Progress Timeline and Seminar Requirements**

Year one: Take required courses; attend faculty research presentations and choose an advisor; take safety course and attend seminars; begin thesis research; take first-year oral during the May term.

Year two: Complete M.S. degree if assigned by first-year oral committee; continue thesis research.

Years three and four: Complete Ph.D. Candidacy exam; thesis research.

#### **Sample Curriculum for First and Second Year Students**

##### **Year 1**

<b>Autumn 1</b>	<b>Autumn 2</b>
Chem 6510 Quantum Mechanics and Spectroscopy (1.5 hr)	Chem 6540 Intro. to Electronic Structure (1.5 hr)
Chem 6520 Thermodynamics (1.5 hr)	Chem 6530 Kinetics (1.5)
Elective (1.5 hr)	Chem 6330 Group Theory, 1.5 hr)
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)	
Chem 6780 Faculty research presentations (1 hr)	Chem 6781 Laboratory Safety (1 hr)
<b>Spring 1</b>	<b>Spring 2</b>
Chem 7520 Adv. Molecular Quantum Mechanics and Spectra (3 hr)	
Chem 7550 Statistical Thermodynamics (3 hr)	
Elective	Elective
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)	
Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)	

##### **Summer**

Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)

##### **Year 2**

Elective(s)
Chem 8899 Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)
Chem 8999 Research (variable - please refer to Graduate School Handbook for requirements)

**Usual alternatives for electives include:**

*Advanced physical chemistry classes:* 6550, 7530, 7540, 7570, 7580, 7590, 8599, 8699; Special topics courses in physical chemistry or fields related to physical chemistry may be taken as elective courses

*Other chemistry classes:* 6110, 6340, 6420, 6440, 7140, 7150, 7160, 7350, 7380, 7440, 7460, 7470

*Physics:* 5300, 5400

*Math:* 4512, 4551, 4552, 4568, 5101, 5102

**First-Year Oral Exam**

A student can qualify for admission to the Ph.D. Candidacy examination administered by the Physical Chemistry Division by satisfactory performance in their course work and on an oral exam offered during the summer term after the first academic year of graduate study.

An oral exam will be offered to Physical Chemistry students, normally during the May term. The topic of the exam is developed jointly by the student and his/her advisor and will be reflected by the choice of a research paper from the Physical Chemistry literature. It is expected that the paper will be related to the thesis research planned for the student. The student should submit a copy of the paper to the Physical division secretary at least two weeks in advance of the exam. The exam will be directed principally toward the topic, but some general physical chemistry questions may also be asked of the student if exploration of the topic touches upon broader issues. The student will receive feedback on his/her performance on the oral exam.

The oral examination committee will recommend one of the following options based on the student's performance in course work, the oral exam, and possible research activity to that point:

- (a) terminate graduate studies with an M.S. degree;
- (b) continue graduate studies by first completing an M.S. degree, followed by the Ph.D.;
- (c) proceed directly to the Ph.D. degree.

The terminal M.S. is invoked when the committee judges that doctoral work is not in the student's best interest. If progress toward the Ph.D. is recommended, the decision on whether to require an M.S. before the Ph.D. is based on all aspects of the student's activity to that point. The decision is made by considering that, for some students, it is helpful to have the smaller goal of an M.S. degree before the Ph.D. This decision is not exclusively linked to performance on the oral exam.

**Candidacy Examination**

The examination for admission to Ph.D. candidacy, consisting of written and oral portions, is given on an individual basis. The examination committee will be made up of 3 faculty members, at least 2 of which are from the Physical Chemistry Division. The written portion is an original research proposition. The student chooses the topic, alone or with the advice of a faculty member. It may not be a research problem currently being pursued by the student or even a variation or modification of the student's current research. The topic may anticipate planned research directions. The topic must receive preliminary approval by the student's advisor and must concern a significant problem in physical chemistry. Subsequent to the advisor's approval, the topic in abstract form must be submitted for approval to the other 3 members of the exam committee.

The written proposal must clearly define an original research problem and explain why its solution will be significant to the field of physical chemistry. It should be limited to 12 pages. It is suggested that it contain an abstract stating the research problem, 3-5 pages of background and motivation, and 5-6 pages of proposed research and analysis. The proposal must represent independent work of the student, although others, including faculty, may be consulted for technical or bibliographic advice. Following the

exam committee's approval of the topic, the student will have 4 weeks to prepare and submit his/her proposal. Each member of the exam committee will submit a written critique of the proposal to the student and other members of the committee within 2 weeks of receiving the proposal. If the committee members judge that revisions of the proposal are necessary, the student must submit a revised version to each committee member within 3 weeks of receiving their critiques. Presentation of a final proposal, which is judged satisfactory by each member of the committee, will constitute successful completion of the written portion of the Candidacy Exam. If a second revision of the proposal is not acceptable to all the committee members, then the committee can declare that the student has failed the written portion of the General Exam, and recommend that the oral portion not be scheduled.

The oral portion of the Candidacy Exam is scheduled by the student and his/her advisor through the Graduate School. The committee will normally consist of the faculty who evaluated the written proposal, but substitutions may be made if necessary. The content of the oral examination will be directed toward the proposal, and to some general issues in the field of physical chemistry. Satisfactory performance will result in admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. Failure may result in a second attempt on recommendation of the Candidacy Examination Committee, no later than the second term following the first oral exam.

### **M.S. Degree**

While it is normally anticipated that the entering student will pursue the Ph.D. degree, in cases where the student performance has fallen below that necessary for continuing to the Ph.D., or so elects for personal reasons, the student may terminate his/her studies with the M.S. degree. The Graduate School of The Ohio State University automatically admits the student as a candidate in the M.S. degree program of the department to which the student applied. A student may be requested to obtain an M.S. before the Ph.D. degree, or may proceed directly to the Ph.D., depending on the best educational interests of the student.

In the M.S. program with thesis, the candidate must conduct independent research under the guidance of an advisor, prepare and present his/her thesis and demonstrate that it adds new knowledge to some area of chemistry. The candidate would complete at least 30 hours of graduate credits (6000-level and above) including the following physical chemistry courses: CHEM 6510, 6520, 6530, 6540, 7520, and 7550. Thesis work requires a minimum of 12 credit hours in CHEM 8999. Students completing this program must write and defend a thesis according to the guidelines presented within this document.

# M.S. IN BIOCHEMISTRY

## INTRODUCTION

The requirements for advanced degrees at The Ohio State University are summarized in the Graduate School Handbook, which can be found on the Graduate School website at <http://gradsch.osu.edu/graduate-school-handbook1.html> and downloaded as a pdf file (<http://gradsch.osu.edu/Depo/PDF/Handbook.pdf>). All incoming students should become familiar with the contents of the Handbook and should use it for reference during the tenure of his/her degree program at OSU.

This document summarizes specific requirements for the M.S. in Biochemistry, as well as additional comments and instructions for students in our program. A student who seeks an M.S. in Biochemistry is expected to expend a major effort on a research problem that culminates in a thesis. To reach this goal, the candidate will conduct independent research under the guidance of a faculty advisor, prepare and present a thesis on the study, and demonstrate that it adds significant new knowledge to some area of chemistry. The course requirements are designed to prepare the student for this major challenge of graduate education. The framework elaborated below is meant to facilitate a productive and rewarding experience.

## OPTIONS

There are two options within the M.S. program in Biochemistry.

The first track is the **M.S. with Emphasis in Biotechnology Option**. This program, in partnership with several biotechnology companies, will train students with a suitable bachelor's degree for a career in the rapidly growing biotechnology industry. Students will typically spend two years in this program. For the first three academic semesters and intervening summer term, the student is expected to complete course work that places a strong emphasis on laboratory research. The curriculum is designed to hone the student's skills in using biochemical and recombinant DNA techniques for biotechnology research. Subsequently, the student will spend at least six months as an intern with a participating biotechnology company, graduating in the summer of the second year. The six-month internship will provide practical experience and enhance placement opportunities for the student. Students in this program must write and defend a thesis based on the area of research in their OSU research, internship, or a combination.

The second track is the **M.S. with Thesis Option**. This program is designed to train students with a suitable bachelor's degree for a career in biochemistry. Students spend an average of two and one-half years in this program. Coursework includes a core curriculum with an emphasis on biochemistry (laboratory and lecture) courses, and electives for further specialization. Students typically select a thesis advisor and research project at the end of the first semester in the program.

In addition, the department also offers a **combined B.S./M.S. in Biochemistry**. The curriculum for this accelerated combined degree is designed to allow for the completion of both the B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biochemistry in five years. (Completion of the two separate degrees independently would typically take at least six years.) Students in the combined B.S./M.S. degree program will usually begin taking graduate level courses in the third year of the program. B.S./M.S. combined program students may participate in either the **Thesis Option** or **Emphasis in Biotechnology Option**. Students selecting the Thesis Option will conduct independent research under the supervision of a faculty member and use the findings for fulfilling the thesis requirement of a Master's degree. Students selecting the Emphasis in Biotechnology Option spend the last six months of the program in a participating biotechnology company and work as an intern. A stipend will be provided by the biotechnology company during the period of internship. Either option will offer career enhancement opportunities well beyond what is possible with the regular B.S. degree.

## ADMISSION TO THE M.S. PROGRAM IN BIOCHEMISTRY



Admission requires demonstration of an acceptable B.S. or B.A. degree typically in biochemistry, chemistry, biology or a related area, and a reasonable expectation of success in the graduate program. Considerable background in organic chemistry is desirable. The student should have a minimum overall undergraduate point-hour ratio of at least 3.2 (on a 4.0 basis), reasonable performance on the graduate record examination (GRE), or satisfactory completion of such specific additional requirements as may be stipulated in special cases. The Graduate Admissions Committee reviews and makes recommendations on each application for admission to the program. The Vice Chair for Graduate Studies has final approval on all offers of admission.

There are two options from the Graduate School for admission to the B.S./M.S. dual degree program. The first option is called the Combined Degree Program. This option has certain restrictions: (a) the undergraduate student must have completed 90 hours including all of the GEC requirements (i.e., senior status); (b) a minimum GPA of 3.5 is required. The student can be admitted to the M.S. program as soon as their 90-hr requirement is fulfilled; however, students are assessed graduate-level fees for this option. The second option is called the Senior Petition. The student must be a senior and have a minimum GPA of 3.3. Under this plan, a student can take a maximum of 9 credit hours during the senior year towards completion of the M.S. degree requirements. Courses cannot be double counted for both degrees. Students are not assessed graduate level fees for these 9 credit hours. Because the combined B.S./M.S. degree program demands considerable effort and commitment from the student, admission to this program is restrictive. Students interested in applying for the combined B.S./M.S. Degree Program are strongly encouraged to first consult with department advisors at [chemadvisors@chemistry.ohio-state.edu](mailto:chemadvisors@chemistry.ohio-state.edu) to obtain further information about the program eligibility requirements and the application process. The application includes a completed degree application form and three letters of recommendation from individuals who are familiar with your academic abilities.

### **TRANSFER STUDENTS**

Transfer students may petition to allow courses they took at a prior institution to stand in place of courses required at OSU. The student will submit previous course materials – syllabi, notes, homework, and exams – which will be evaluated by appropriate faculty in our department. Credits from other institutions cannot be transferred.

### **ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

A graduate student doing acceptable work toward a graduate degree is expected to maintain a point-hour ratio of B (3.00) or better in all graduate-credit courses. If at any time after 9 hours of graduate credit, a student's cumulative point hour ratio (CPHR) falls below the 3.00 requirement, the student is automatically placed on probation by the Dean of the Graduate School. Although the student is expected to raise the CPHR above 3.00 the next term, continued enrollment is permitted on a term-by-term basis, as determined by the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies and the Graduate School. For additional information, please visit <http://gradsch.osu.edu/5.3-probation.html>.

### **DURATION OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

Normally, a M.S. (Thesis Option) student will spend two and a half years in residence; a M.S. (Biotechnology Emphasis Option) student will spend two years in the program including a 6-month internship. The B.S./M.S. program typically requires 5 total years.

## **SAFETY SEMINAR COURSE**

Every graduate student is required to attend a complete the Safety Seminar (CHEM 6781) course during the second half of Autumn Semester of the first year. The purpose of the series is to maintain high safety standards in the departmental teaching and research laboratories. The series of lectures, given by the departmental safety coordinator or a faculty member, covers topics ranging from the handling of corrosive and toxic chemicals to fire fighting. Failure to attend any of these lectures will result in a grade of "Unsatisfactory" for the course and may prevent any future support as a GA. In addition to the Safety Seminars, each student must become familiar with the department's Chemical Hygiene Plan and the Standard Operating Procedures associated with their work.

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

The M.S. program in Biochemistry is a self-supported program, and funding is not guaranteed for any period of the program.

However, at the discretion of the faculty advisor, M.S. students may receive financial support as Graduate Associates, either Teaching Associates (GTA) or Research Associates (GRA), or as Fellows during their tenure in the department. Graduate students supported by any of these appointments may not hold additional employment of any kind without express permission of the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies. Fellowship stipends may be supplemented up to the current GTA stipend; any stipends above that level must have prior approval by the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies.

The Graduate School sets minimum requirements of eligibility for GA appointments to students who are in a degree program. Students must register for at least eight (8) credit hours during fall and spring semester and four (4) during the summer session. Students who hold fellowships must register for twelve (12) credit hours during each fall and spring semester and six (6) during each summer session the appointment is held. International students who are not holding a GA appointment must register for eight (8) credit hours each fall and spring semester and four (4) each summer session. Each of these registration requirements qualifies the student to be considered "full-time" for purposes such as visas and health insurance.

There are additional requirements imposed by the Graduate School. A student must be enrolled for at least three (3) credit hours during the term in which they graduate. A Master's degree requires at least 30 graduate credit hours. Audited courses do not count toward these minima.

Departmental policies coincide with the guidelines set by the Graduate School for the most part:

- (1) Students with a GPA below 3.00 lose their right to a Department Graduate Research Associate appointment (dGRA), and may lose future support as a TA.
- (2) Students in the M.S. program are expected to defend their thesis by the end of their third year. Students failing to defend their M.S. thesis by the end of their third year must petition the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies to continue in the program.
- (3) Every faculty member is required to evaluate their Graduate Teaching Assistants each term with ratings of Excellent (E), Satisfactory (S+, S, or S-), or Unsatisfactory (U). Evaluations are based primarily on overall performance as a teaching associate, but also include punctuality, attendance of staff meetings, and attitude toward students. Students receiving an unsatisfactory (U) teaching evaluation will be suspended from their teaching appointment for one term and must petition the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies for subsequent reinstatement. No GTA support will be available during such a suspension. Petitions to be supported as a GTA can be made after two semesters from the time the U rating was received. Two S- ratings are regarded as equivalent to one U rating. Any subsequent U will lead to dismissal from the teaching program and further GTA support will be available. A further S- rating will result either in complete dismissal from the teaching program or a one-term suspension, as appropriate.

- (4) Every faculty member is required to grade the performance of students taking research credits under his/her supervision each term with ratings of Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U). Evaluations are based primarily on overall progress in research, but also include time spent in the lab, attendance of group meetings, and handing in reports required by the advisor in a timely manner. Students receiving an unsatisfactory (U) grade will meet with the advisor and the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies to devise a plan to ensure future success. Any subsequent U grades in research will lead to the student not being in good standing in the department and can result in dismissal from the program.

### **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

Discussion with the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies usually leads to resolution of a grievance. If discussion with the Vice Chair proves unsatisfactory, the Graduate Council has established grievance procedures, copies of which are available in the Graduate School (for details, please see <http://gradsch.osu.edu/appendix-d.html>).

### **ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

A student whose native language is not English must demonstrate a satisfactory proficiency in English at the beginning of the graduate program. Courses in written and oral English may be required for students who show a deficiency that might prove to be a handicap to graduate work. Students who hold a GTA appointment will be required to demonstrate proficiency in Spoken English, either by passing the SPEAK test or a Mock Teaching Test, both of which are administered by the English as a Second Language Program. International students may also be required to take written English courses (5901, 5901.5, 5902) after taking English entrance examinations. Even though support is not guaranteed by the department, it is advisable for Biochemistry M.S. students to complete all English requirements by the end of the second semester at OSU in case opportunities for GTA support arise.

### **ADVISOR SELECTION**

Thesis research is initiated when a student has selected a research advisor, and has been admitted into a research group. The selection of an advisor is a major step in a student's program. Students must complete at least two 7-week lab "rotations" during which time they student and advisor will determine the suitability of the student for the research lab. Typically students should join a lab by the first day of the second semester in the program. Students who fail to do so may be granted additional time (not more than a semester) for finding a lab by the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies. After the end of the first year, students who have not joined a lab will not be in good standing and may be subject to dismissal.

Students formally join a lab by submitting a ranked list of the names of their top two choices of advisor to the Graduate Office by the end of the last day of final exams in the student's first semester in the program. The faculty members, in the order ranked, must decide whether or not to serve as advisor to the student. The faculty member notifies the Graduate Studies Office of his/her decision. If neither faculty member decides to serve as advisor, the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies will actively help the student find an advisor, in a manner left at the discretion of the Vice Chair.

Students must complete their M.S. research under the supervision of a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. In general, the advisor should be among those indicated to be part of the Biochemistry division on the departmental web page, but other advisors in the department are possible with approval of the Graduate Studies Committee. Research may be done in collaboration with faculty outside the department, including those affiliated with the department. The direct supervision of the M.S. research of Biochemistry graduate students by faculty outside the department is not permitted. Any other advising arrangement is subject to approval by the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies, who will request a description of the proposed research and consider whether it is suitable for a M.S. thesis in Biochemistry.

After selection of an advisor and in consultation with the student and their advisor, the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies will appoint an advisory committee for each student typically composed the research advisor and one additional faculty member in the department. The purpose of the advisory committee is to provide each student with support and guidance during his or her graduate career. Students should meet with their advisory committee during the autumn semester of each year to discuss their progress in course work, examinations, and research. In addition, students are free to meet with any committee member at any time during the year. The department hopes that this process will provide a mechanism for forging closer ties between students and faculty, both before and after graduation.

If a student leaves a group, or the faculty advisor resigns his/her position as preceptor, the student will have until the end of that term to find a new advisor. If less than two weeks remain in the term including final examination week, then the student will have until the fifth week of the following term to find a new advisor. After this time, the student will no longer be in good standing in the department and support will be withdrawn (at the end of the term of enrollment) if the student was supported as a GA.

# M.S. PROGRAM IN BIOCHEMISTRY

## I. DEGREES GRANTED, RESIDENCE AND CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENTS

### A. MASTERS PROGRAM

The student must have a minimum residence of two semesters at The Ohio State University with completion of at least 30 credit hours of graduate work. The student's course program should be decided in conjunction with the advisor. Course work must be at the 6000-9000 level, and the courses in related fields must be acceptable to the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies, the student's advisor, and the Biochemistry division.

Students must take (a) 12 hours of core classes including Biochem 6701, 6761, 6762, 6763 and 7770. (b) At least 2 hours of biochemistry electives from the department's listings (at the 6000 level or above). Related courses from other divisions (6000 level or above) or other departments (5000 level or above) may count as an elective with the permission of the Biochemistry division. Plant Pathology 7003 is recommended. (c) 2 hours of Biochem 6785 or Biochem 6999 for lab rotations in the fall. (d) 1 hour of seminar (Doctoral Seminar, Chem 8899, or Biochemistry Division Student Seminar, Chem 8892) per academic semester.

Students will carry out a research program that will culminate with the writing of a thesis. The research program should be initiated upon joining a research group. Students must take at least 10 credit hours of research.

A student must submit an "Application to Graduate" form to the Graduate School no later than the third Friday of the semester (or third Friday of May session for summer session commencement) in which graduation is expected. The candidate must pass an oral examination before a committee composed of at least two faculty members from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, including the student's research advisor. Should the graduate record of the candidate be wholly satisfactory to the examining committee, the scope of the examination will be confined to the candidate's field of specialization. The thesis Approval form to the Graduate School and the electronic submission of the approved thesis to OhioLink must be submitted by the deadline published by the Graduate School for the semester or summer session of graduation.

Students working toward an M.S. degree cannot receive financial support from the department (GRA, GTA, GAA) after completion of three years in the program.

### B. TYPICAL PROGRESS TIMELINE

Year one: Take core and elective courses; participate in two lab rotations and choose an advisor by the end of autumn semester; take safety course; attend seminars; begin thesis research.

Year two: Finish courses; thesis research; attend seminars.

Years three: Complete thesis research; attend seminar.

Note that students pursuing the option for Emphasis in Biotechnology will typically complete their courses by the end of fall semester of Year 2, and will participate in at least 6 months of internship beginning after the fall semester.

Note that students pursuing the B.S./M.S. option will typically complete 9 hours of graduate credit in their senior (fourth) year to complete the M.S. in one additional year.

## C. SUGGESTED BIOCHEMISTRY M.S. CURRICULUM

### Year 1 - Autumn and Spring Semesters

Autumn Semester		Spring Semester	
Session 1	Session 2	Session 1	Session 2
Biochem 6701 (4 hr)		Biochem 6762 (1.5 hr)	Biochem 6763 (1.5 hr)
Biochem 6761 (3 hr)		Elective (2-3 hr)	
Rotation – Biochem 6999 (1 hr)	Rotation – Biochem 6999 (1 hr)	Research – Biochem 6999 (variable)*	
	Safety Course (1 hr)		
Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)		Doctoral Seminar or BDSS* (1 hr)	

\*BDSS, Biochemistry Division Student Seminar, Chem 8892

**Year 1 - Summer Term:** Research (4 hr)

### Year 2 - Autumn and Spring Semesters

Autumn Semester		Spring Semester	
Session 1	Session 2	Session 1	Session 2
Biochem 7770 (2)			
Doctoral Seminar (1 hr)		Doctoral Seminar or BDSS (1 hr)	
Research – Biochem 6999 (variable)		Research – Biochem 6999 (variable)	

**Year 2 - Summer Term:** Research (4 hr)

**Subsequent Terms:** Research, seminar and/or elective courses\*

\*Please consult the Graduate School Handbook to determine the number of credit hours required to retain the full-time student status, when a student is supported by a fellowship or other appointment.

## II. DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BIOCEMISTRY M.S. DEGREE

### A. THESIS

The thesis resulting from the student's graduate research must represent significant contribution to knowledge in biochemistry. Its importance should be sufficient to warrant the acceptance for publication of a paper based upon it by one of the respected journals of biochemistry or a related scientific area. A reading committee composed of the advisor and at least one graduate faculty member (often the student's Advisory Committee) will consider the merit of the thesis in detail. The student's advisor selects the other committee member from the department.

### B. MASTER'S EXAMINATION

On approval of the thesis by the committee, a final oral examination, based largely on the thesis work, will be held in accord with the Graduate School guidelines. The examination committee will consist of the members of the thesis reading committee. A unanimous vote of the committee members is required for a satisfactory decision.