



Some teaching or equivalent educational experience is required. This requirement may be satisfied by a minimum of one year of service as a teaching assistant or by other suitable teaching duties. Arrangements are made with each student for a teaching program best suited

It is typical that as a student becomes more adept and more successful in the laboratory, he/she will be supported as a full-time RA. By the third year, the student's financial support is normally the responsibility of the faculty advisor.

During the fall semester, all first- year students, including those who have already undertaken some preliminary research during the summer, will begin the research advisor selection process. An exploration period follows orientation week, during which students are required to meet with all research faculty either in small groups or one-on-one. Many labs will offer an "open house" event where students can learn about research opportunities in the group. No one is permitted to join a research group during this initial exploration period. After the exploration period, the student will submit their top three choices for the selection of faculty advisors to the Associate Director of Administrative and Graduate Student Services. Based on their choices and space availability, students will be assigned research groups. Every effort is made to accommodate the students' choices, but sometimes that is not possible. In such cases, the department will work with the student to explore options and to find a solution that works for all concerned.

While there is no mandated deadline by which time graduate students in Chemistry must have joined a research group, it is nevertheless important that doctoral students reach a mutual agreement with a research advisor about joining a group by the end of their second semester in the program. The reason for this is two-fold. First, in order to qualify for available financial support beyond the first year, a doctoral student must be an active member of a research team. Second, because the primary component of the graduate program in Chemistry is the research project, in almost all circumstances, academic progress towards a degree cannot be made without participation in such a group.

The research project is the primary component of graduate study in chemistry. While a first-year student may take courses during the second semester of the first year of study, it is also a time to begin preliminary experiments in the laboratory. A research project usually begins with a significant amount of library research, and this work should be pursued during the first and second semesters, even for students with full-time teaching and course loads. All students should become familiar with the research laboratory in which they will work so that when classes terminate in May, full-time experimental work can begin in an efficient manner.

This one-credit course, offered in the spring semester, is for students in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Each class member will present a 30-minute long seminar followed by a Q&A period. The Graduate Studies Committee will approve topics in advance. The student's presentation will be assessed by their Thesis Committee.

The original research proposal will be completed in the student's fourth program year. Written

objective, significance of the problem, ideas for developing a research plan, a summary and references.

The preparation and defense of a thesis is the last step in obtaining a Ph.D. degree. The defense consists of two parts: a public defense (a formal seminar open to the entire community) and a private defense open to members of the thesis committee.

In the private defense, the student typically gives a short summation of his/her work and is then required to answer questions about the work and defend the conclusions reached.

With the completion of both defenses, and the submission of the approved thesis to the graduate school, the Ph.D. degree will be granted at the next graduation date provided the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences deadlines are met.

The thesis committee will be constituted as follows:

The Ph.D. thesis examination committee shall consist of at least three Ph.D. panelists who are tenure track members of the Boston College chemistry faculty. All members of the committee

The following section lays out the normal timelines for progress through the Chemistry Ph.D. program.

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- Two of three core classes (Physical organic, chemical biology and physical chemistry)  
Maximum of four courses permitted (2 core courses and 2 elective courses)
  - Group selection process (Signatures from all faculty; signed forms due December 1<sup>st</sup>)
  
  - Enrollment in Science Communication in Chemistry is required
  - Elective courses based on student's research track  
Maximum of four courses permitted (science communication and 3 electives)
- Students are required to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0

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- Scheduled towards the end of Year 2 (May/June)
- Student is required to submit a written report summarizing research progress, and undergo an oral examination assessed by at least 3 faculty members (Thesis Committee)
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Advanced courses will be determined in collaboration with the student's faculty advisor and be consistent with the focus of their research. Any additional course work, outside of the required credits, must be approved by the Graduate Program Director (GPD).

Graduate level courses taken in other departments (physics, biology, etc.) or at other institutions can be counted as advanced electives only with approval of the GPD, in consultation with the student's research advisor. By the end of the first year, a student should have demonstrated proficiency in the core curriculum.

In those cases where a student is completing an M.S. degree, a minimum of 18 graduate credits must be completed to fulfill university requirements. By the end of the second year, at the time of the oral exam, a student should have completed the core curriculum and taken at least one advance course. Often the M.S. lab work can be finished during the summer or during the first portion of the fall semester of the third year, and the thesis can be written and defended by the end of the fall semester. Students who have not amassed the necessary credits after two years of study, and who are working toward a master's degree, may have difficulty in obtaining the necessary credits during the fall semester and may not complete their degree requirements

. (a) use of any source (e.g., notebooks, crib notes, etc.) which is prohibited in that particular examination; (b) copying from another person's examination.

Blatant falsifying of data, such as inventing data or misrepresenting sample size.

Opinions differ among various faculty members regarding the propriety of the same or similar paper (or parts of the same paper) being submitted to more than one course. Graduate students must consult the faculty members involved prior to the submission of such papers.

In the unlikely event that a faculty member accuses a student of a violation of academic integrity, the following review process will take place:

based on a consideration of the best interests of both the student and the University. Leaves of absence for students on Doctoral Continuation are rarely granted.