

Chemistry Department Independent Study Guidelines

The Chemistry Department believes that research is a valuable experience for all Chemistry and Biochemistry majors. One unit of research is required for the BS Chemistry degree. We strongly encourage all students to include one or more research experiences in their programs. Employers, graduate programs, and professional schools all like to see undergraduate research experiences. Research can be done with or without receiving academic credit.

1. No academic credit awarded
Doing research for no academic credit is a good way to start on a new project or to do a little research in a term when you don't want to commit larger blocks of time. To arrange this sort of project, talk to the faculty member you would like to work with.
2. CHEM 205 Research Experience, ½ credit
This ½ credit course requires a minimum of 3 hours/week of lab work (in a 13 week semester) with some additional time for reading or other related work. A written research report is submitted to the faculty supervisor. CHEM 205 may not be used to satisfy the BA Chemistry elective or BS Chemistry research requirements. To arrange this sort of project, talk to the faculty member you would like to work with. Permission of the department is required. See the department Chair no later than the first week of the term. Repeatable.
3. CHEM 405, 406, 407 Independent Study and Research, ½ or 1 credit
These courses require 6 hours/week for ½ unit or 12 hours/week (in a 13 week semester) for 1 unit of credit. A scholarly paper and oral presentation to the department are required. You will also get to present your work at an off-campus professional meeting or research showcase. To arrange this sort of project, talk to the faculty member you would like to work with. Permission of the department is required. See the department Chair no later than the first week of the term. Repeatable. This course may be used to satisfy the BA Chemistry elective or BS Chemistry research requirements.
4. CHEM 477 Independent Study used to satisfy the Intensive Learning Requirement, 1 unit
This course requires a minimum of 156 hours (equivalent to 12 hr/wk for 13 weeks) of lab and related work. The College's Intensive Learning Requirements dictate that you may not take other academic courses while completing CHEM 477. A separate application to the IL Director and permission of the department are required by March 1. This course may be used to satisfy the BA Chemistry elective or BS Chemistry research requirements.
5. CHEM 495, 496, 497 Honors Project, 1 unit taken over 1 or 2 semesters
Honors in Major requires a minimum 3.4 GPA in the major at time of application and at graduation. The student must have senior standing. A separate application is required prior to the start of the project. See the department Chair. Lab hours and reports required are the same as for CHEM 405/406. This course may be used to satisfy the BA Chemistry elective or BS Chemistry research requirements.

Students may apply for stipends to support research done during the summer. Chemistry Faculty will be glad to help you apply for college support through the Summer Scholars program. The department also administers its own Bondurant Fund, which provides stipends and free housing to summer researchers. A packet describing this opportunity is distributed to all students enrolled in Chemistry courses in late February.