

## New Chemistry Graduate Student Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

*Answered by chemistry graduate students!*



### ***What is the minimum GRE score required for admission?***

The current requirement is a combined total of 303 between the quantitative and verbal portions. This is subject to change per faculty's discretion.

### ***When will I know whether I have been accepted?***

The acceptance process is continuous throughout the year; applicants will be notified as soon as their application has been approved. If you have questions or concerns about your application please email the Graduate Program Assistant in Chemistry (Erica Walsh). E-mail: [Erica.Walsh@ucf.edu](mailto:Erica.Walsh@ucf.edu).

### ***What do I need to know to pass the proficiency exams?***

The proficiency exams are the American Chemical Society exams in Organic, Analytical, Physical and Inorganic Chemistry as well as Biochemistry. The ACS Study Guides for Organic, Analytical and Physical Chemistry are very helpful, but none exist for Inorganic or Biochemistry. For those, review concepts covered in an undergraduate Biochemistry or Inorganic course.

Additionally, it is advisable to focus your attention on certain exams. Keep in mind that Chemical Thermodynamics and Applied Analytical Techniques are offered as core courses in the Fall semester. These courses require the Physical and Analytical proficiencies. Applied Organic Synthesis, Kinetics and Catalysis and Advanced Biochemistry are offered in the Spring semester (Biochemistry may not be offered each Spring – check my.UCF to see when it is being offered). The Organic, Inorganic and Biochemistry proficiencies are required for these courses respectively. Focus your attention on the proficiencies you require for a particular semester, but take the others as well, just in case! Proficiency exams are given in the week before the semester begins. Contact Erica Walsh for further information regarding exact dates and times for these exams.

### ***What happens if I do not pass the proficiency exams?***

If you don't pass one or more of your proficiencies, you can audit the corresponding undergraduate course to fulfill the requirement. Meeting the proficiency requirement differs between courses: you may have to obtain a B in the course or on the final exam, you may have to take one or two semesters of a course. You can also re-take the ACS exam in the following semester, but it is strongly recommended that you take the undergraduate course instead as it is a more efficient approach to pass the proficiencies.

### ***I have a master's degree. Do I still have to take proficiency exams?***

Yes. Everyone coming into the program needs to take the proficiency exams, even if you already have a master's degree. This is to ensure that all students are proficient with the skills they need to fulfill the program requirements.

## ***How many credits are required?***

### **PhD**

- 12 credits (4 courses) core coursework
- 12 credits concentration elective coursework
- 7 credits of seminar (6 credits taken prior to candidacy; 1 dissertation seminar credit taken in the final semester prior to graduation)
- 6 credits directed research
- 15 Credits of dissertation after candidacy completion
- 20 other mandatory credits can be filled with electives or graduate research
- **72 Total credits**

### **Masters**

#### *Non-thesis*

- 12 credits (4 courses) core classes
- 8 credits elective coursework
- 4 credits of seminar
- 6 additional elective or research credits
- 1 credit independent study
- **31 Total credits**

#### *Thesis*

- 12 credits (4 courses) core classes
- 8 credits elective coursework
- 4 credits of seminar
- 6 credits of thesis research
- **30 Total credits**

### ***How do I transfer credits?***

To transfer credits you will need approval from all of the following: your faculty advisor, the graduate program coordinator and the College of Sciences. You will need to show that the class you want transferred is equivalent to the class offered in the Chemistry Department. Transferring credits is also highly dependent on your performance on the entrance exams, as well as your performance in the class you wish to transfer. You will need to speak with the Graduate Program Assistant in Chemistry (Erica Walsh) to start this process. E-mail: [Erica.Walsh@ucf.edu](mailto:Erica.Walsh@ucf.edu)

### ***There is a long list on classes on the website. Which ones can I take?***

For the classes offered in the upcoming semester, check my.UCF.

1. Go to my.ucf.edu.
2. Sign in.
3. Go to student self-services (tab on the left).
4. Under academics, select search.
5. Use the prefix CHM or CHS for chemistry department classes.

If you would like to take a course outside of the department, you will need to speak with your faculty advisor and/or the Graduate Coordinator (Dr. Campiglia).

### ***Speak test for internationals...?***

International students that do not have a degree from a US institution must pass the Versant English Test in order to be a GTA and receive funding. **Contact UCF Global for upcoming speak test dates.**

### ***Who can I choose to be my advisor?***

Chemistry students must choose an advisor within the chemistry department, however you can choose a co advisor out of the department. If your advisor within the chemistry department so chooses, you can work in the co advisors lab in collaboration. This process is usually completed within the first semester.

### ***What is the candidacy exam?***

The candidacy exam is a written and oral defense of an original research proposal to your committee. The proposal should be focused on a topic not directly related to your research. The details of how the candidacy is written and which topic is chosen depend on your faculty advisor and committee.

### ***When do I select my committee?***

You will need a faculty committee to evaluate you on your candidacy exam and dissertation defense. Speak with your adviser about when you will choose your committee as it varies between faculty.

### ***Who do I contact for additional information?***

Contact the graduate program assistant for more information:  
Erica Walsh email: [Erica.Walsh@ucf.edu](mailto:Erica.Walsh@ucf.edu)

### ***I need to save money! How?!***

If you are a GTA or GRA, you are technically a UCF employee. Ask around campus for employee discounts. It can't hurt!