



Expectations of Chemistry Graduate Students

1. The graduate student bears primary responsibility for the successful completion of his/her degree program. Accordingly, the student will demonstrate thoughtful commitment to success in coursework and research. The student is expected to maintain a high level of professionalism, self-motivation, curiosity, and to conduct his/her work with ethical integrity.
2. The student will select a research advisor at the end of the first semester of study. The student will make this selection by carefully studying the research of Department of Chemistry faculty and by initiating meetings with faculty members of interest to discuss the possibility of becoming a member of their research group. The student will inform the Graduate Studies Coordinator of the group he/she would like to join by the end November. Student selections will be ratified by faculty vote after which the student will be informed of their assignment of research advisor.
3. The student will work closely with her/his research advisor to develop an appropriate research plan for her/his PhD dissertation. This includes establishing a timeline for each phase of the project. The student will strive to meet established deadlines and will provide the research advisor with regular updates on the results of research activities and experiments. As needed, the student will adapt the research plan in consultation with the research advisor.
4. The student will work with the research advisor to select a thesis advisory committee by the end of the first year of study. The student will work with the research advisor and thesis advisory committee members to fulfill the requirements for the PhD degree including completion of required coursework, written cumulative exams, the oral qualifying exam, the third year seminar, the fourth year review, and the PhD thesis. The student will be responsive to advice and constructive criticism from the members of his/her thesis advisory committee.
5. The student will be knowledgeable of and comply with all policies and requirements of the Department of Chemistry, the Graduate School, and the University of Rochester. This includes reading the [Department of Chemistry Student Handbook for the Chemistry PhD Program](#) and the [Graduate Studies Bulletin](#). The student will commit to meeting these requirements, including teaching responsibilities, to the best of their ability.
6. The student will comply with all group, Department of Chemistry, and institutional policies regarding safe and ethical laboratory practices. This includes yearly group, departmental and institutional safety training and compliance with the requirements of this training. The student commits to use mandated personal protective equipment at all times in the laboratory.
7. The student will actively participate in all laboratory meetings, seminars, etc. that are a part of her/his educational program. The student, regardless of research interests, should attend the majority of departmental seminars, including inorganic, physical, and organic subject seminars. All students are expected to attend every colloquium talk.

8. The student will be a good lab citizen. The student will participate in shared laboratory responsibilities and will use lab resources carefully and frugally. The student will be respectful of all laboratory, departmental, and institutional personnel and will work collegially with these personnel.
9. The student will discuss policies on work hours, sick leave, and vacation with the research advisor. The student will comply with these policies and will notify the research advisor and fellow laboratory personnel well in advance of planned absences.
10. The student will participate in mandated departmental or institutional Responsible Conduct of Research Training and Teaching Assistant training as directed by the research advisor or departmental and institutional leadership.
11. The student will maintain detailed, accurate, and organized laboratory notebooks that document all research activities and experiments. All tangible research data, including digital files, should be carefully maintained and backed up by the student in consultation with the research advisor. The student should be aware that these notebooks and data are the property of the institution and should be archived in accordance with institutional policies in consultation with the research advisor.
12. The student will discuss policies on authorship and attendance at professional meetings with the research advisor. The student will work with the research advisor to prepare research results for publication. The student is responsible to ensure that all published work to which they have contributed is accurate and in compliance with the ethical conduct of research.
13. Publication in reputable peer-reviewed journals is an important indication of the quality of scientific research. As such, the student will strive, in consultation with the research advisor, to conduct research that will meet this standard. It is generally expected that work leading to the PhD degree will be disseminated by publication in peer-reviewed journals.
14. The student accepts primary responsibility for the development of her/his career following the completion of graduate studies. The student will seek guidance from the research advisor, members of the thesis advisory committee, other mentors, and peers regarding resources available for the development of future career paths.

This document sets forth expectations for graduate students in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Rochester. It has been adapted from the "[Expectations of Graduate Students](#)" document from the School of Medicine and Dentistry, which is based on the "[Compact Between Biomedical Graduate Students and Their Research Advisors](#)" (Association of American Medical Colleges, www.aamc.org/gradcompact).