

Ph.D. Program at a Glance

PRE-FIRST SEMESTER

Qualifying Examinations:

These exams, held before the semester begins, serve to outline the curriculum for the first term, pinpoint knowledge gaps, and suggest ways to address them. Passing three exams is required by the end of the second semester, with three attempts permitted.

CBC Research Symposium:

CBC Research Symposium includes a data blitz and poster session for new graduate students to familiarize themselves with research groups of interest.

FIRST SEMESTER

Course Work, Seminars:

Selection of first-semester coursework involves consultation with the GPC, considering the planned Program of Study and Qualifying Exam outcomes. All students should attend at least one divisional or program-related seminar, along with the Departmental Colloquia every week. Moreover, specialized training in areas such as radiation, chemical, biological safety, and other research-related requirements must be fulfilled.

Faculty Interviews:

All students are required to interview individually with at least 6 faculty members.

Laboratory Rotations:

All Students will undertake laboratory rotations.

Research Director Selection:

Non-BCP Chemistry students should submit the Research Director Selection Report to the GPC after completing their third rotation. If a fourth rotation is chosen, the form can be submitted at the conclusion of that rotation, which is optional.

Research:

Begin research when Research Director selection is approved.

Teaching:

Students will perform TA duties as assigned.

SECOND SEMESTER

Course Work, Seminars:

Guided by your Research Director, you should deliver your Plan of Study to the GPC before April 30th. Weekly attendance at one divisional or program-specific seminar, along with the Departmental Colloquia, is mandatory for all students. For transfer credit inquiries, it's advisable to initiate the process early this semester.

Laboratory Rotations:

Biochemistry and Chemistry BCP students will complete rotations if necessary.

Research Director Selection:

Biochemistry and Chemistry BCP students should submit the Research Director Selection Report to the GPC after completing their third rotation. If a fourth rotation is chosen, the form can be submitted at the conclusion of that rotation, which is optional.

Research:

Continue Research.

Teaching:

Students will perform TA duties as assigned.

TA Evaluation:

Your role as a Teaching Assistant is regarded as a vital aspect of your education and your obligation as a graduate student at the University of Arizona.

FIRST SUMMER

Research:

Continue research.

Dissertation Committee:

In collaboration with your Research Director, you must choose your Dissertation Committee by the start of fall classes. Submit your Proposed Dissertation Committee to the Graduate Program Coordinator and document it in GradPath.

THIRD SEMESTER

Course Work:

Follow the coursework outlined in the approved Plan of Study, ensuring attendance at relevant divisional or program-specific seminars, as well as the

Departmental Colloquia every week. Comply with divisional or programmatic guidelines when delivering seminars.

Research: Continue research and submit your Annual Research Summary in writing to both your Dissertation Committee and the GPC by September 1st or the following first Monday.

Written Comprehensive Exam: The Independent Research Proposal, outlined in Section "K" of this guide, should be submitted by November 1st or the subsequent first Monday. Faculty evaluations will be returned before the end of the Fall semester or within 5 weeks if submitted earlier. For students commencing in the spring semester, the deadline is March 15th.

FOURTH SEMESTER

Course Work: Follow the coursework outlined in the approved Plan of Study, ensuring attendance at relevant divisional or program-specific seminars, as well as the Departmental Colloquia every week. Comply with divisional or programmatic guidelines when delivering seminars.

Research: Continue Research

Oral Comprehensive Exam: Arrange the Oral Comprehensive Examination, aiming to schedule it as soon as possible, ideally within six weeks following the approval of the Independent Research Proposal. It's important to note that **all students must complete their oral examination by the conclusion of their fourth semester.**

SECOND SUMMER

Research: Continue research and submit your Annual Research Summary in writing to both your Dissertation Committee and the GPC by September 1st or the following first Monday.

REMAINING SEMESTERS

Course Work and Seminars: Follow the coursework outlined in the approved Plan of Study, ensuring attendance at relevant divisional or program-specific seminars, as well as the Departmental Colloquia every week. Comply with divisional or programmatic guidelines when delivering seminars.

FINAL STEPS

Committee Meeting: Arrange a meeting with your Dissertation Committee about six months prior to your expected final defense date. During this meeting, prepare a presentation detailing your research progress and share a written dissertation outline with the committee members.

Seminar: Schedule and present final seminar as required by your division.

Dissertation: Complete dissertation and deliver it to your Dissertation Committee.

Final Oral Defense: Plan the dissertation defense (final oral examination) and ensure you submit the Announcement of Oral Defense Examination at least two weeks before the scheduled defense date. At this time, provide your committee members with a final draft of your dissertation.

Submission of Dissertation: The revised dissertation must be submitted to the Graduate College within one year of the final oral examination. (Normally this should be done within a matter of days or weeks). **Continuous registration is required until the dissertation is submitted.**

ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 5 YEARS OF PASSING THE ORAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM.