

Organic Chemistry Division Graduate Student Requirements: Qualifying Procedures and Earning a Ph.D.

Temporary Modifications in Response to COVID-19

1. Overview

This document presents modifications to the standard Organic Division requirements to accommodate changes and pressures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The modifications are presented by section and are numbered based on the original document. Modifications specifically address a) the Fall 2020 semester for new and existing graduate students; and, b) timelines and protocols for (primarily international) graduate students who will begin their studies in Spring 2021 (one semester delay).

2. Qualifying Procedures

2.2. Course Requirements

2.2.5. Recommended Course Schedules for Students Entering in the Spring 2021 Semester (January)

		Spring Year 1	Fall Year 1	Spring Year 2
<i>Standard organic track^{a,b}</i>	<i>Option 1</i>	elective, elective	CHM 5224, CHM 5235	CHM 6225, CHM 6226
	<i>Option 2</i>	CHM 6225, elective	CHM 5224, CHM 5235	CHM 6226, elective
<i>Polymer track^{a,b}</i>	<i>Option 1</i>	CHM 5511, elective	CHM 5224, CHM 5275	CHM 6225, CHM 6226
	<i>Option 2</i>	CHM 6225, elective	CHM 5224, CHM 5275	CHM 6226, CHM 5511

^a Students are strongly encouraged to take three courses whenever possible. Exceptions sometimes include students who are required to take an intensive (four credit) English course. ^b The best option will be determined in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, Organic Division Head, and relevant faculty.

2.3. Written Qualifying Examination (Cumulative Exams)

General comments

- The two outstanding cumes from Spring 2020 will be held virtually in Summer 2020.
- The delivery mechanism of Fall 2020 cumes (i.e., either virtually or in-person) will be decided in July–August 2020.
- Graduate students enrolling in Spring 2021 must complete their cumulative exam requirement by December 2022.

2.3.3. Regulations and Timing

3. Details of where and how the cumulative exams are provided in Summer/Fall 2020 will be provided to students well in advance.
8. Students admitted in Spring (January) 2021 must begin the cumulative exam sequence no later than Spring of their 2nd year (February 2022), although starting sooner is possible upon consultation with their research director and the Division Head.
9. For Spring 2021 admits, the free organic cume must be taken anytime in the first year. The next cume, taken no later than February of the second year (in accordance with Regulation 8), initiates the formal cume sequence of 8 consecutive exams.

2.5. Oral Qualifying Examination: Research Progress Report and Original Research Proposal

2.5.2. Eligibility and Scheduling

Existing guidelines will apply to students who begin in spring 2021 but are briefly reviewed here.

Once a student has passed the written qualifying examinations and remains in good academic standing, he/she is eligible and encouraged to start planning for the oral qualifying exam. Typically, a discussion with the student's Ph.D. mentor is sufficient to identify a time frame for when the event should occur, and this should be no later than the 7th semester of residence (for students matriculating in Spring 2021, this would be the Spring 2023 semester). In most cases the specific date will first vary depending on the student's research progress, Ph.D. mentor's travel schedule, and acceptance of the candidate's proposed research topic (see Section 2.5.3). Again, in cases where the oral must be scheduled late, *students must petition the Division (with a supporting letter from their research advisor) for an extension; denial of the petition means that they will be eligible only for an M.S. degree.*

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