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**DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**

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**GRADUATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

for the degree of

**Doctor of Philosophy**

Version 19

*Revised for August 2008 by RBD*



## **A. INTRODUCTION**

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These guidelines describe the Program requirements for a PhD degree in Chemical Engineering. It is the responsibility students to know and take appropriate steps to meet all Program requirements in this document. General requirements for the various degree program as well as descriptions of courses can be found in the University of Florida Graduate Catalog. A student is normally regulated by the rules set forth in the catalog published in the academic year of the student's first term.

As detailed below, the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program requirements consist of:

1. Completion of at least 90 credits beyond the B.S. with a minimum of 1 year in residence.
2. Completion of at least 30 credits of graduate courses, not including seminar.
3. Registration for graduate seminar (ECH 6926) in each semester of residence.
4. Successful completion of a written and oral QUALIFYING EXAMINATION which includes a written program-of-study proposal.
5. Completion of a written DOCTORAL DISSERTATION and successful defense of the dissertation in a FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION.
6. Service as a *Teaching Assistance* for two semesters.
7. Present a research seminar to the department on the final results of the doctoral work.

The Ph.D. degree is for those who wish to attain mastery of a field of knowledge and demonstrate accomplishment in research. Study for the Ph.D. degree will be open only to those with demonstrated competence in the core areas of Chemical Engineering.

## **B. PHD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

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### ***Course Requirements***

Beyond the B.S. degree the Ph.D. degree requires successful completion of a minimum of 90 credits subject to restriction and classifications approved by the department. A minimum of 30 credits of courses acceptable for graduate credit and taken after the Bachelor's Degree are

required. These 30 credits must include the three Basis courses that are offered in the Fall semester, a course in either reaction engineering, kinetics or biochemical engineering (or suitable equivalent), as well as at least two more courses in Chemical Engineering. Ph.D. students shall register for Chemical Engineering graduate seminar (ECH 6926) every semester of residence after the first semester; the credits earned cannot be counted toward the 30 required credits.

### ***Transfer of MS Credits from other Institutions***

Students with MS degrees in Chemical Engineering from other institutions may petition to transfer up to thirty credits toward their PhD requirements. Some of these transferred credits may be used to satisfy the Departmental requirements on core courses as well as the Engineering Science courses.

### ***Campus Residency Requirements***

Full-time student status requires at least 30 credit hours in each calendar year, or 36 hours within four semesters in two calendar years. After the first year, students must register for at least 9 credit hours in the Fall and Spring semesters, and at least 6 credit hours in the Summer.

### ***Research***

Students will be assigned a research advisor during the first semester of study. Before the end of the second semester, PhD students will nominate, with the advice and consent of the research advisor, the three or more other members of the Supervisory Committee, which include two other Graduate Faculty members from the Chemical Engineering Program, and one Graduate Faculty member from outside the Chemical Engineering Program. If a minor is pursued, it must be approved by the minor department and one member of the supervisory committee must be from the minor department. The research advisor is the Chairman or co-Chairman of the Supervisory Committee.

The Supervisory Committee is very important and should be chosen carefully; it assists in preparing and approves the program of study, approves the dissertation research, administers the candidacy examination, periodically reviews progress, and conducts the final oral examination. The Supervisory Committee is responsible for assuring that the completed dissertation is original research and is a contribution to the body of knowledge. The adviser and Supervisory Committee may assist the student in understanding all regulations governing the Ph.D. program, but the student has the ultimate responsibility for being aware of and meeting all requirements.

The Ph.D. candidate, upon completion of other degree requirements, will submit his/her dissertation to the Supervisory Committee and the Graduate School. The dissertation will be examined for at least two weeks by the committee, after which the research will be defended with at least four faculty members present with the candidate. The final oral examination shall be publicly announced and open to the public, although the dissertation committee may conduct a

continuation of the examination in private with the candidate after the public presentation is completed. In any case, only the Supervisory Committee and other designated faculty sign the dissertation signature pages.

### ***Qualifying Exam and Advancement to Candidacy***

Final acceptance into the Ph.D. program requires successful completion of the QUALIFYING EXAM. The purpose of the exam (written and oral proposal) is to assess the student's potential to perform scholarly research at the PhD level. The student is to be evaluated for:

Depth of knowledge in research area (i.e., review of relevant literature).

Breadth of knowledge in fundamentals. These should include thermodynamics, transport phenomena, chemical engineering kinetics, and fundamentals related to research area (e.g., chemistry, biology, mathematics, materials, and surface chemistry).

Ability to formulate a research plan.

Critical thinking.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible to take the PhD the qualify exam, students must:

- 1) Maintain an average GPA of 3.0 in the three core Basis courses (Continuum Basis, Molecular Basis, and Mathematical Basis of Chemical Engineering) and remain in good academic standing. A student who gets less than a B in a Basis course must retake the course on the next available offering and obtain a B or better.
- 2) The students must also maintain a GPA of 3.5 or better for research in the semesters prior to the exam. This grade must be assigned by the research adviser, discussed with the student and placed on record in the students file prior to the examination.

### **Written Exam**

The written exam is in the form of a research proposal due **February 1st** of the second year of the second year. This document must outline the area of research and its importance, problem statement, background to the research area, specific tasks that will be performed, preliminary results, and subsequent steps. A number of excellent manuals (consult, for example, references available via [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)) are available on writing research proposals and may be used as guides in preparing the proposal. A maximum of 25 single-spaced, typed (12-point font) pages, including

figures and tables is recommended. It should include a title, a table of contents, and an abstract. The main body of the text would typically consist of the following:

1. **Introduction:** A concise overview of the research area and topic and their importance.
2. **Background:** Literature review and relevant background needed to place the proposed study in the larger context and to highlight the relevance and the novelty of the proposed work.
3. **Problem description:** A description of the specific problem and the objectives of the proposal and the novelty of the proposed work.
4. **Specific tasks:** A description of proposed theoretical and/or experimental work and a list of specific tasks (including feasibility probes) needed to accomplish the proposed objectives.
5. **Preliminary work:** Description of any preliminary work performed by the student and an analysis or discussion of such preliminary work.
6. **Future tasks:** Details of the subsequent steps planned to achieve the specific objectives of the research.
7. **Concluding remarks:** Closing remarks.
8. **References:** A list of references cited in the proposal.
9. **Tables & Figures:** Tables and figures used in the proposal should be integrated into the text.

### Oral Exam

The student must take the oral exam within four months of the written exam submission or **June 1<sup>st</sup>** of their second year. The student will orally present the research proposal then answer questions about the research plan and general questions from the supervisory committee. The committee will evaluate the quality of the proposal and the response to questions about the proposal in order to assess the candidate's oral communication skills, depth of knowledge in research area, breadth of knowledge in chemical engineering fundamentals, ability to think critically, and ability to formulate and defend a research plan.

All members of the committee must be present during the examination. If a member is unable to attend, a suitable substitute approved by the Department must be appointed.

The substitute member should be given sufficient time to read the report and prepare for the exam. A minimum of two weeks is recommended.

### Outcomes

Students who successfully pass the oral and written exams have formally entered PhD candidacy. Students who fail the exam may be given the option (on the advice of the supervisory committee) of retaking the exam within 4 months or terminating with an MS degree (with or without thesis depending upon the advice given by the adviser), or an Engineer's degree should the student already have an MS degree.

### Important Dates to Remember

February 1 Written proposal due (1 copy to Room 219 CHE—Shirley Kelly, and copies to the committee members)

Before June 1st Oral Examination for qualifying exam and advancement to candidacy

### ***Teaching-Assistantship Requirement***

To gain valuable teaching and communication experience consistent with of the PhD degree, all PhD candidates are required to serve two semesters as a Teaching Assistant, as part of their graduate requirements. Exceptions will not, ordinarily, be permitted, and TA assignments will be made based on student course preferences in July of each year for the following academic year, students are ultimately responsible for ensuring their TA requirement is met. Student who anticipate graduating within one year but have not yet fulfilled the two-semester TA requirement must notify the Graduate Coordinator.

### ***Research-Seminar Requirement***

Graduate students enrolled in the Ph.D. program are required to present a seminar to an audience comprised of all the graduate students and faculty. The seminar should be scheduled to take place during the last two semesters of the student's residence at UF and should cover selected results from the student's doctoral thesis. The students should provide the Seminar Coordinator with a title and a short abstract for the presentation in advance, and the seminar presentation should last no more than 30 minutes, including a 10-minute period for questions. The Ph.D. candidate is responsible for contacting the department Chairman or the department's Seminar Coordinator to schedule the time and date of the seminar. The doctoral degree will not be issued to candidates until the seminar requirement is satisfied.

### ***Progress-Report Requirement***

PhD students must provide an update on their dissertation progress to their supervisory committee by the end of Spring semester of the third year and every Spring semester thereafter until graduation (unless graduation in that summer). The progress update may take the form of either an oral presentation to the committee, or a concisely written progress report to committee members followed by individual meetings if necessary. The progress report option is not to exceed ten pages and should include a statement of progress to-date and a plan for future work toward completion. Any completed manuscripts should be appended. To document compliance, students are to have each committee member sign a copy of the attached form, and the signed forms are to be given to the Graduate Program Assistant. Note that during a typical four-year period to graduation, only one progress report will be required in the third year.

### ***Other Remarks***

The minimum requirements for the Ph.D. program can be met in 3 years following the Bachelor's degree and all students are urged to complete their work as expeditiously as possible. If a longer period is required to complete the research project, students are encouraged to consider broadening their education by taking more than the minimum of courses.

## **C. GENERAL Policies and Requirements**

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### ***Florida State Residency Requirement***

For tuition purposes, all eligible students (i.e. those who receive tuition waivers and who are U.S. citizens, permanent resident aliens, or legal aliens granted indefinite stay by the Immigration and Naturalization Service) must take appropriate actions to become in-state residents by the end of their first year. Failure to do so may result in loss of the tuition waiver.

### ***Course Registration Procedures***

Graduate students must get the approval of their adviser for registration of courses, prior to registration. Approval forms can be obtained in 227 CHE Bldg.

### ***Continuance Policy for Stipends***

The graduate program is one of intensive study and each student is expected to work seriously toward completion of the degree requirements. Each student will continue to receive stipend support up to 5 academic years of full time study for PhD students and 2 years for MS students, subject to funding availability and satisfactory progress toward completion. Extensions of this limit may be requested by petition that includes a written plan and timeline for completion of the degree.

### ***Concurrent Degrees***

Graduate students who wish to enroll in a concurrent degree program must obtain the appropriate forms from the graduate school. The graduate coordinator will sign these forms *only after consulting the chair and after the student's graduate adviser has given written approval for*



*the student to enroll in the concurrent degree program.* A copy of all communications regarding the application for the program will be maintained in the student's graduate folder with the Graduate Program Assistant (Shirley Kelly).

### ***Leave Policy***

Though Graduate Research Assistantships and Fellowships do not formally provide for leave or vacation time, the Department of Chemical Engineering has established guidelines for granting student leave time. Stipend-supported graduate students accrue 15 business days of leave each fiscal year (a fiscal year begins July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following academic year; business days exclude weekends and University of Florida holidays). Unused leave may accumulate from one fiscal year to the next, but the total annual leave may not exceed 20 business days in any given fiscal year. No compensation for unused leave shall be made at the end of a student's studies. Students whose leave exceeds the limits, without written approval of the advisor, are subject to reductions of stipend and may lose the privilege of receiving a tuition waiver for one or more semesters.

The specific dates of absence must be pre-approved by the student's advisor by signature on the leave form (appended below), which is to be completed and submitted to Mrs. Shirley Kelly in 409 CHE Bldg. Importantly, the form includes contact information during the student's absence must be provided in the event that an emergency should develop.

### ***Academic Honesty and Ethical Conduct in Research***

All students admitted to the University of Florida have signed a statement of academic honesty committing themselves to be honest in all academic work and understanding that failure to comply with this commitment will result in disciplinary action. Students are expected to produce their own work in homework, projects, and exams. Unauthorized collaboration in take-home exams, projects, and individual assignments is a serious violation of the university honor code and could lead to a grade decrease, course failure, and loss of degree status.

Students are expected to maintain high ethical standards in the conduct and reporting of scientific and scholarly research. Students are responsible for ethical research conduct to the University, to the academic community, to those sponsoring the research, and, to the community at large. Research Misconduct, including fabrication or falsification of data, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research or reporting of results, is a most serious offense that can greatly damage the welfare and reputation of the students, faculty, and the University. For more information regarding Research Misconduct, see <http://www.admin.ufl.edu/DDD/attach06-07/R10101-0704.pdf>

From the UF Student Handbook: "Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Florida. Plagiarism in a thesis or dissertation is punishable by expulsion. If the plagiarism is detected after the degree has been awarded, the degree may be rescinded. For a thorough discussion and the law, see [www.rbs2.com/plag.htm](http://www.rbs2.com/plag.htm). A briefer discussion and some tips for avoiding it are provided at [www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml).

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**LEAVE FORM**

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STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

UF ID NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL YEAR: JULY 1 20 \_\_\_\_ TO JUNE 30 20 \_\_\_\_

LEAVE INFORMATION

DATE OF DEPARTURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF RETURN \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS OF ABSENCE \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFORMATION DURING ABSENCE (PROVIDE A PHONE NUMBER IF AVAILABLE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURES

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

ADVISER: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

**Progress Status Approval Form**

## Chemical Engineering Graduate Program

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*I have reviewed the dissertation progress of \_\_\_\_\_ and found it  
\_\_\_\_\_ satisfactory.*

*\_\_\_\_\_ unsatisfactory, for the reasons listed below:*

*Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member*

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