

CHE 290

Undergraduate Research



DEPARTMENT OF
CHEMISTRY
Illinois State University

Description

Chemistry 290 is an independent research course. It has been designed to allow you to obtain research experience in an area of chemistry that interests you. You will work with one of the professors in the Department of Chemistry, performing research that is part of that professor's ongoing research program. Such independent research projects are designed to help students obtain research skills and to better understand methods and techniques involved in scholarly research in an academic environment. Many students find that it aids them in selecting their specific chemical specialty. Our graduates have indicated that undergraduate research was an extremely valuable educational experience. It can be a powerful tool for increasing your competitiveness as a scientist.

Enrollment

Students may earn credit toward their undergraduate chemistry major (1 credit hour) and/or credit toward their baccalaureate degrees (up to 6 credit hours total may be counted for graduation). Ordinarily, students may sign up for 1-2 credit hours per semester but should be aware that a minimum of 3 hours per week should be spent for each hour of enrollment in CHE 290.

Most students do not conduct research until they have completed the General Chemistry sequence (24 credit hours overall). However, some faculty will make exceptions. If you have not yet completed General Chemistry I and II (CHE 140 and 141) you should discuss this issue with your prospective research advisor.

Before you complete and submit the application for enrollment you should meet with at least 2-3 faculty members to discuss their research and how you can participate in their research program. A list of faculty research projects can be obtained from the Chemistry Office (214 Julian Hall), or read about their research online at <http://chemistry.illinoisstate.edu/research/faculty/>.

To enroll in CHE 290 you must complete the Application for Enrollment in CHE 290 form (see attached). Once the form has been completed, bring it to the Chemistry Department to obtain an override. Once you are granted the override into the course, you will receive an email from the Department of Chemistry telling you that an override has been approved. After you receive this email you need to register through the University.

Progress and Final Reports

At the end of each semester that you are enrolled in CHE 290, you must complete a Research Report. This can be a Progress Report if you plan on continuing to conduct research the next semester. You should discuss the format of the report with your research advisor who should review the report before it is finalized. The report is due on the last day of class (before finals week). Print out two copies of the report, one for the Department and the other for your research advisor.

Grades

For CHE 290 a grade of CR (credit) or NC (no credit) will be assigned by your research advisor at the end of the semester.

CHE 290

Application for Enrollment



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Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

ULID: _____ Sem/Yr applying for: _____

Classification: Fr So Jr Sr Major: _____ Minor: _____

UID #: _____ ID # (office use only): _____

Chemistry GPA: _____ Overall GPA: _____ Semester hours of credit CHE 290: _____

Total semester hour course load anticipated, including CHE 290: _____

Chemistry Courses to be taken concurrently with CHE 290:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Faculty member who will direct your research: _____ (print)

Signature of faculty member who will direct your research: _____

By signing above, the faculty member agrees to accept this student into their research laboratory providing they complete the remainder of the form.

Title or Nature of your research project: _____

Will this be a terminal project or will it extend into a succeeding semester? Terminal Extended

I _____ (student name, printed) agree to adhere to the guidelines and policies outlined in the Department of Chemistry Chemical Hygiene Plan and the Lab Specific Plan when conducting research in the Science Laboratory Building under the advisement of _____ (faculty member's name, printed).

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Approval of GPA

To conduct CHE 290, the minimum chemistry GPA requirement is 2.00. A faculty member must sign off on this. Therefore, you either need to bring an unofficial copy of your transcript to your prospective research advisor and they can check your GPA and sign off on the form **OR** bring this form to a Departmental advisor who can check your GPA and sign off on the form.

Faculty Signature approving GPA \geq 2.00: _____ Date: _____

This form must be completed by the fifth day of the semester.