

SECOND YEAR RESEARCH REPORT

In the Fall semester all second year students will register for CHEM 798, Research & Evaluation in Chemistry, for 4 credits. The grading will be on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

No single criterion is more important in the early career of a graduate student than the results of the Second Year Research Report. This vital document will reveal basic research skills (meticulousness and thoughtfulness) and knowledge of the literature as well as work ethic and motivation.

In November or early December of the second year, the student will present this Research Report to an appointed faculty committee of three members. The Director of Graduate Studies informs the student of the committee's membership by the middle of fall semester. This committee will continue to monitor student performance on an annual basis. The written paper is submitted to the committee one week before it is orally presented and defended before that committee. This annual meeting enables students to receive some independent and constructive feedback on the research project, and encourages continued intellectual interaction with more faculty. It will also provide a means by which faculty other than the student's Ph.D. advisor can keep abreast of the work and progress that the student is making. All committee members will be available to help address research problems that arise during a student's graduate studies.

The student arranges the room and time of presentation of each annual research meeting after checking with the members of the committee. Students submit a typed paper and prepare a twenty minute presentation (approximately one dozen overhead transparencies of key figures and points are useful in the presentation). The exam lasts about 50 minutes. At the end of the exam, the student is graded based on the guidelines listed below. The faculty will use the performance on the paper to evaluate the student's writing skills and their performance on the paper and the oral exam to indicate their level of scientific maturity, work ethic, perseverance and promise.

Second Year Research Report Content of Paper

1. Abstract

One paragraph, that should include 1 or 2 sentences about the objective, 3 or 4 sentences about the results, and 1 or 2 sentences about the conclusions. It should answer the questions: "What is the significance of your experiments and what did you accomplish?"

2. Introduction

2-3 pages – introduce the problem – provide background and precedents that your work has built on.

3. Results and Discussion

4-6 pages – what have you accomplished – what have your experiments taught us – how have you drawn these conclusions from the data you gathered.

5. Conclusions and Future Work

1-page

You and your advisor will choose the exact style, one that is optimal for your particular research. These sections are for you to "showcase" your accomplishments. The above description is only a very loose guideline.

The paper should be double spaced, 12 point font, and will likely be 8-10 pages in length (not including figures, schemes, or references).

**Grading Guidelines
Second Year Research Report**

Name of Student: _____

Advisor: _____ Signature: _____

Committee Members: _____ Signature: _____

_____ Signature: _____

Date of Exam: _____

Quality of Paper (circle one):

Satisfactory (S)

Unsatisfactory (U)

Quality of Oral Exam:

Satisfactory (S)

Unsatisfactory (U)

Candidate Recommended as a:

A. Ph.D. Candidate _____

B. Possible Ph.D. Candidate _____

1. Re-evaluation will take place _____ Semester.

2. Items to be retested:

Written Report _____

Oral Exam _____

C. M.S. Candidate _____

Student will finish research work and submit Master's thesis by the end of _____ Semester. No further coursework is required.

D. No Graduate Degree _____

Student will leave the program by the end of the current semester.

Research Report: Faculty Comments Sheet
Department of Chemistry

Student Name: _____

Date of Exam: _____

Committee Member: _____

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	N/A
RESEARCH PROGRESS					
Data obtained					
Results					
KNOWLEDGE OF FIELD					
Depth of understanding project					
Relation to other work in field					
Level of critical thinking					
QUALITY OF PAPER					
Grammar and style					
Organization					
Figures					
QUALITY OF ORAL EXAM					
Use of language					
Organization					
Quality of slides or overheads					
Response to questions					

Comments:

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Comments: