Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry offers a PhD in Chemistry, with research specializations available in biological, organic, inorganic, physical, and nuclear chemistry. Doctoral students often work at the interface of two or more subfields of chemistry; they may also work at the interface of different scientific disciplines. Lab assignments are therefore made according to each student's research project. Chemistry students may work in a lab outside the department or alongside students from other departments in a chemistry lab.

The department's research strengths in each subfield of chemistry are as follows:

- Biological: biophysical, bioorganic, bioinorganic, biochemistry
- Organic: synthetic, organometallic, bioorganic, physical organic, asymmetric catalysis
- Inorganic: coordination, organometallic, materials, bioinorganic, main group
- Physical: computational, laser spectroscopy, theoretical, magnetic resonance
- Interdisciplinary: biophysical, physical organic, materials
- Nuclear and Radiochemistry: stability of nuclei, radioisotopes for medical studies

Washington University's graduate student stipends are in the top 25 percent of stipends at similar universities, and St. Louis has a low cost of living. The department has an excellent record of placing its graduates in a wide variety of jobs: academic, industrial, governmental, legal, consulting, writing/editing and entrepreneurial.

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Faculty

Chair

William E. Buhro (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/buhro)
George E. Pake Professor of Arts & Sciences
PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

Endowed Professors

Robert E. Blankenship (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/people/primary-faculty/robert-blankenship)
Lucille P. Markey Distinguished Professor of Arts & Sciences
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Regina F. Frey (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/frey)
Florence Moog Professor of STEM Education
Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry
PhD, University of Utah

Gary J. Patti (https://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/patti)
Michael and Tana Powell Associate Professor of Chemistry
PhD, Washington University

Holden Thorp (http://provost.wustl.edu/about/provost-thorp)
Provost
Rita Levi-Montalcini Distinguished University Professor
PhD, California Institute of Technology

Professors

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PhD, Cornell University

Peter P. Gaspar (http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/faculty/gaspar)
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PhD, University of California, Berkeley
Assessing the requirements for a PhD in Chemistry involves understanding the demands placed on students to ensure they are well-prepared for their future careers. Here are the key points to consider:

- **Graduate Credit and Research**: Students must complete 72 semester hours of graduate credit in courses and research.
- **Cumulative Examinations**: Satisfactory performance on written cumulative examinations is required.
- **Pre-Thesis Committee Meetings**: Satisfactory performance at annual pre-thesis committee meetings is a must.
- **Teaching Competence**: Demonstration of teaching competence is essential.
- **Dissertation Research**: Successful completion of dissertation research and preparation of a dissertation is necessary.
- **Oral Defense**: Satisfactory performance on a final oral dissertation defense is required.

On average, students take between five and six years to complete the PhD.

Additional requirements specific to Chemistry include attendance at Thursday evening research presentations during the student's first fall semester, presenting and passing an oral examination within the first four semesters, and annual re-certification in laboratory safety.

Almost all students participate in mentored teaching experiences in their first two years and must perform satisfactorily. Students must also make annual research presentations to their advisory committee, prepare a satisfactory dissertation research proposal, and pass an oral examination.