

Graduate Students: Rules for Qualifying Exams and Remedial Courses

1. All entering graduate students must take qualifying exams in the 4 chemical subdisciplines: Analytical, Inorganic, Organic, and Physical chemistry. These are the standardized exams issued by the American Chemical Society for graduate admission. A passing performance in the qualifying exams is a grade in the 50th percentile or higher. This limit is strictly enforced.
2. Students who score in the 30th – 49th percentile range in a qualifying exam must take a 400-level course that is designated “remedial” for the subdiscipline in question (Chem 454, 463/4, 473, 495). Graduate credit is earned for these courses.
3. Students who score below the 30th percentile in qualifying exams must take the ‘survey’ course in the corresponding subdiscipline. The courses in question, Chem 455, 466, 476, and 496, provide students with the appropriate remedial instruction. After completion of a survey course, students have to take the “normal” remedial course in the subdiscipline. Graduate credit is earned for survey courses.
4. Remedial courses, both “normal” and survey, must be taken by a graduate student when they are first offered after the student enters the program. Failure to take a remedial course at this first opportunity is considered equivalent to unsatisfactory performance and results in dismissal.