Department of Chemistry
Policy on Undergraduate Research Credit (CHEM x97/CHEM 499)
Approved by Department Head, December 5, 2016
(updated September 7, 2017, April 14, 2019, August 12, 2022, and January 23, 2024)

The Department of Chemistry offers undergraduate research credit in the form of non-thesis research (CHEM x97) and senior thesis research (CHEM 499). Undergraduates who are not Chemistry majors are strongly encouraged to enroll in the undergraduate research course in their own major when possible, rather than in CHEM x97/499.

(1) One credit hour of CHEM x97/499 corresponds to an average of five hours per week of research time over the entire semester. Research for less than five hours per week is not generally eligible for any CHEM x97/499 credit.

(2) In general, undergraduates are expected to perform research for the full duration of a semester, rather than only a portion of a semester. Credit for research performed during at least half of the semester may be granted in line with (1), considering the research time per week averaged over the entire semester. The instructor should not approve any credit that averages to less than 5 hours per week over the entire semester.

(3) Retroactive credit (i.e., Late Course Add of CHEM x97/499) after the first half of the semester is not normally allowed. In the rare case that a Late Course Add is approved, this will be for only one credit hour.

(4) Individual faculty members are assigned CRNs that are specific to each semester and to each CHEM x97/499 course. Undergraduates should obtain the relevant CRNs directly from their faculty research advisors or from area offices. CRNs will be provided by the department office to faculty and to area offices.

(5) For CHEM 499, a senior thesis approved by the faculty research advisor must be submitted by the student for final approval by the department. The deadlines and procedures are described online at the following webpage and linked webpages or on an analogous successor webpage. https://www.chemistry.illinois.edu/chem-499