

Department of Chemistry
Procedure for Undergraduate Research Credit (CHEM x97/CHEM 499)
in a Non-Chemistry Laboratory

Approved by Department Head, September 12, 2014
(updated August 29, 2015 and September 7, 2017)

This document describes the procedure to be followed when an undergraduate seeks approval for either non-thesis research (CHEM x97) or senior thesis research (CHEM 499) under the supervision of a research advisor who is not in the Department of Chemistry. For this purpose, a faculty member who is a Chemistry affiliate or who is in the Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (ChBE) is considered “in Chemistry” and may directly supervise CHEM x97/499, with no formal department approval required.

For non-thesis research (CHEM x97) in a non-Chemistry lab, two requirements must be met.

- (1) The student must identify an appropriate and willing Chemistry faculty “advisor of record”, who will formally provide the end-of-semester course grade for the research done in the non-Chemistry lab. This advisor of record needs to be specifically a Chemistry faculty member, not a Chemistry affiliate or a ChBE faculty member. It is entirely the responsibility of the student (not the department office), with advice from their non-Chemistry advisor, to identify, approach, and secure the participation of the Chemistry advisor of record. The CRN used for course credit should be that of the advisor of record. If this faculty member does not yet have the appropriate CRN, then the department office will obtain and provide it.
- (2) The student must petition the department office for formal approval. This petition must
 - (a) designate the Chemistry advisor of record, who must already have agreed to participate, and
 - (b) describe the research project and its relationship to Chemistry, justifying that the research has a substantial chemistry component (i.e., that the research is something that the Chemistry faculty would generally agree is “chemistry” rather than something else). The department office must approve this petition in order for CHEM x97 credit to be awarded. This approval should be requested no later than the end of the third week of the semester.

For senior thesis research (CHEM 499) in a non-Chemistry laboratory, one additional requirement must also be met:

- (3) A senior thesis approved by the Chemistry advisor of record must be submitted by the student for final approval by the department. This final approval will be provided using the same submission deadlines and evaluation procedures as exist for undergraduates who are doing senior thesis research (CHEM 499) with Chemistry advisors. These 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>