

**Department of Chemistry**  
**Policy on Undergraduate Research by ChemE Majors in Chemistry Labs**  
December 2, 2016

ChemE majors can get credit in CHBE x97/499 for working in a Chemistry lab. The ChBE rule of an “active ChBE co-supervisor” can be met in most cases by a once-per-semester meeting between the ChemE student and his/her ChBE co-supervisor in addition to a one-page writeup each semester by the student explaining the engineering applications of his/her research. This “active co-supervision” arrangement cannot be retroactive. A ChemE student cannot work for a Chemistry faculty member during the semester and only at the end of that semester approach a ChBE faculty member to ask for retroactive co-supervision of CHBE x97/499.

ChemE majors who are doing research other than for a senior thesis in Chemistry labs should be offered the following two options, either of which is acceptable to both Chemistry and ChBE.

- (a) Enroll in CHEM x97 through their Chemistry advisor. This option requires no special approval or arrangement of any kind.
- (b) Arrange an active co-supervisor relationship with a ChBE faculty member and enroll in CHBE x97. ChBE faculty will decline to approve CHBE credit if the research is “purely Chemistry” and insufficiently engineering-focused. The student must identify, approach, and obtain the agreement of a ChBE faculty member to serve as active co-supervisor.

For either option, the student should make the CHEM or CHBE x97 arrangement prior to beginning research, or at least at the very start of the semester. Chemistry intends to decline retroactive credit in CHEM x97, especially to any ChemE major who fails to follow through on the CHBE credit option and then tries to fall back upon CHEM credit later in the semester.

ChemE majors must be advised of the limitations of using CHEM x97 credit for their ChemE degree program. A ChemE student needs 4 hours of elective credit, which can be any of science, math, or engineering. They can use only 4 hours of CHEM 497 research for this. If they do research as CHBE 497, then they can use the credits for any technical elective, including up to 10 hours of credit in engineering as well as the science or math electives.

ChemE majors who are doing senior thesis research in Chemistry labs must be advised to arrange an active co-supervisor relationship with a ChBE faculty member so that they can enroll in CHBE 499 Senior Thesis. ChemE seniors will not be permitted to enroll in CHEM 499 Senior Thesis because they are not Chemistry majors, and Chemistry is not in a position to evaluate senior theses of non-Chemistry students. If ChBE does not agree to allow a particular ChemE senior to enroll in CHBE 499 (or 497), then that student’s only Chemistry option is CHEM 497 but not CHEM 499. CHEM 497 still constitutes formal credit for undergraduate research; there is merely no senior thesis document.