

Master's fast-track in Chemistry (revised spring 2018)

Overview

The Master's fast-track is designed to allow qualified students to be admitted to the MS program during their junior or senior year of the BS program, and to work towards both the BS and MS degrees in chemistry. This BS/MS program allows for early planning of the graduate portion of the student's education by taking graduate courses as part of the BS degree. During their senior year, students can take six graduate credits to be double-counted towards both the BS and MS degrees in chemistry. This is not a separate or new master's program but rather a method for BS students to jump start their Master's degree while enrolled as an undergraduate student.

Credits

With the recommendation of the student's academic advisor, up to **six** credits of chemistry department courses at the 5000 level may be counted towards both the undergraduate and MS degree requirements, i.e., double-counted. In principle, therefore, the minimum number of credit hours required will be 144 (thesis option for the Master's degree), which is 24 plus the 6 dual counted for 30 total credits at the graduate level. Note: As per university regulations, undergraduate students may also take an additional 6 hours of 5000 level credits to be reserved for their graduate degree; however, these will not be counted towards the BS.

Qualification/Admission

Application for admission may be submitted to the department at any time after the student enters his or her junior year. Minimum requirements for admission are:

1. Minimum GPA of 3.25
2. Two letters of recommendation from UW faculty (at least 1 from a chemistry faculty)
3. Completion of a minimum of 15 credits of chemistry courses at UW.¹

¹This requirement pertains to transfer students and can be fulfilled by any 3000-5000 level courses.

Retention

The student must maintain a GPA of at least 3.25 in their undergraduate studies and a 3.0 in their graduate studies to remain in good standing in the program. Performance below these GPA requirements will place the student on probation for one semester. If the GPA requirement is not met after that semester, the student will be removed from the program.

Advising

Students in the BS/MS program must have a faculty advisor with whom they must consult to complete a program of study, which must include all courses to be taken from the senior year through the end of the program. This plan will be filed with the chemistry department by the end of midterm of the first semester in which the student has been admitted into the program. Their

graduate thesis advisor will be responsible for any stipends for the student during their Master's program.

Regulations

Until a student in this program has completed a total of 120 credit hours applicable to the BS degree in chemistry, he/she will be governed by the regulations applicable to any undergraduate student in chemistry. After completion of these 120 credits, he/she will be enrolled as a graduate student and be governed by graduate student regulations in the chemistry department. It is the intention of the department that, as far as possible, a student in their program is treated on the same basis as any other student in the department at a comparable stage of his/her academic career. It is intended that once the Master's level degree commences, the student will finish in 12 months to the extent possible.