Chemical Biology Path Requirements

YEAR 1:
• Advisory Exams.
• Start Coursework – 3 courses are recommended to be taken in the fall term.

The Core (major) courses for Chemical Biology are:
- Biochem 704: Chemical Biology
- Biophysical Concepts & Methods Course (Must complete at least ONE of the following five courses for the maximal numbers of credits offered, if variable (e.g. 3 credits if offered for 2-3): Chem 606 (Brunold), 627 (Coon), Chem 665 (Record/Cavagnero), 668 (Cavagnero), 621 (Wright), 622 (Li), Phys 675 (Ge)

Other graduate courses in line with student interests should be taken to fulfill the minor course work requirement. Students should consult closely with their faculty advisor in the fall/PI in the spring with regard to these courses.
• Join a research group
  - Attend research overviews from Chemistry department faculty (first few weeks of Fall term).
  - Carry out three rotations prior to group joining in the fall.
  - No one can join a research group before the November selection deadline.
• Take the required Departmental Safety Course in January.
• Assemble faculty mentoring committee – (PI + at least two other faculty) By end of summer.

YEAR 2:
• Thesis Preliminary Examination. The Written report is due by Jan 31, and the Oral defense should occur soon thereafter (no later than April 30).

The written summary and oral presentation should outline the background, aims, preliminary results and planned experiments of the research that will be pursued. The faculty mentoring committee will evaluate the candidate (in a closed session). Students that do not pass this exam the first time must complete the requirement satisfactorily by August 31 of the 2nd year.

YEAR 3:
• Original Research Proposal Examination
  - One-page Summary providing the context for the scientific problem and the Specific Aims of the research. Due two Mondays before Thanksgiving. The Summaries will be evaluated by the full Faculty at a lunch meeting thereafter and approved (or not).
  - Written proposal, due the Monday of exam week Fall semester. The Summary must be approved prior to the Written Proposal being accepted.
  - Oral defense (closed) with a single faculty panel during the first weeks of January.

Students who do not pass the Proposal requirement in the Fall round will have a second opportunity in the Spring semester. In the Spring round, the Written Proposal will be due on the Monday of the last week of classes; the Summary will be due three Mondays prior.

YEAR 4:
• Fourth-Year Seminar Day
Each 4th year student presents a formal talk on his/her research during a symposium held in May.

YEAR ~5:
• Dissertation Defense. The Written Ph.D. thesis must be submitted to the candidate’s committee at least one week prior to the Oral defense date. Students who have not set a date for their dissertation defense by the end of their fifth year will meet with their committee members at least once annually until completion of the degree.