

## **A note to students about the multidisciplinary track**

Some research problems of a multidisciplinary nature require a program of training in several fields that is not available from one of the divisional curricula. In those situations, the multidisciplinary track allows a student, working with a faculty member or team a faculty, to develop a suitable academic program.

Our department encourages research in emerging disciplines, as well as traditional fields of chemistry. The purpose of the multidisciplinary track is to provide chemistry grad students with the freedom to design the best academic program for their graduate research and future career.

The current divisional course offerings are actually quite broad, and already have sufficient flexibility to accommodate most students engaged in multidisciplinary research. By their choice of electives or by taking a small number of additional courses, most students can acquire broad multidisciplinary training. However, when further flexibility is needed, the multidisciplinary track exists to fill that gap.

There are obvious advantages to tailoring your academic program to complement a multidisciplinary research problem that has been suggested to you by a faculty member, or a team of faculty members. The danger in tailoring your courses around a specific research topic is that things change: For example, students may discover that, in the end, they are not really interested in a topic. Alternatively, sometimes faculty leave to take a position elsewhere, students find courses more difficult than anticipated, the relationship between students and faculty may not work out, and so on.

The potential dangers should not discourage students from taking advantage of the multidisciplinary track. However, it is best that you enter the disciplinary track aware of both the benefits and risks. If things do not work out, because you are specialized, you might need additional time and/or courses to complete your degree. The faculty and graduate studies office in Chemistry have experience with these situations and can help keep you on track.

The Graduate Studies Committee will evaluate applications for the multidisciplinary program based on the information provided in this application and the student's academic record.

Graduate Studies Committee  
Department of Chemistry  
Ohio State University

**Application for the Multidisciplinary Studies Track  
Department of Chemistry  
Ohio State University**

Student:

Date:

Proposed primary advisor:

List possible co-advisors:

Describe why a multidisciplinary program of studies is needed, and why one of the divisional course programs is not adequate for your academic plans. Explain why elective courses, or a small number of additional courses, will not meet your needs.

List the courses that will constitute your program of study. For all courses given outside the Chemistry Department, give both course title and course number.

1st year

Autumn quarter:

Winter quarter:

Spring quarter:

Summer quarter:

Courses beyond the first year:

The Department of Chemistry requires an *end of the first year oral exam*. Review the existing procedures in the divisions close to your interests and propose the

- 1) date,
- 2) composition of the examination committee (in terms of research interests, not specific names),
- 3) what might constitute "further evaluation" following the exam.

The Graduate School at Ohio State University requires a *general exam for admission to Ph.D. candidacy*. The Department of Chemistry requires this exam be completed by the end of the student's third year of study. Review the existing procedures in the divisions close to your interests and propose

- 1) a format for the exam closely following that of related divisions,
- 2) composition of the examination committee (in terms of research interests, not specific names).

Required signatures

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_