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Chemistry and Biochemistry Faculty and Staff

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Graduate Study in Chemistry. Master’s Program

M.1 Admission Requirements

Applicants with at least a B.A. or a B.S. degree in chemistry (or the equivalent) may be admitted for graduate study in chemistry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis as candidates for the M.S. degree. Admission to the Graduate School may be under regular, restricted, or provisional classification. Provisional admission is granted for one term to those students who appear to qualify for regular admission, but who have not submitted all the required admission information (e.g. official transcripts). Provisional students will be reclassified to regular status after receipt of the required material. Students who fail to meet the minimum GPA requirements as set by the Graduate School (2.75/4.0) may be admitted as M.S. candidates under the restricted classification. Restricted students may be reclassified to regular status after successful completion of required course work, pursuant to the approval of the Graduate School.

The department admissions committee makes all admission recommendations. The committee considers the applicant's grade-point-average, letters of recommendation, and the rigor of previous academic programs. The committee normally requires above-average performance in all areas of chemistry (analytical, biochemistry, inorganic, organic, and physical) as well as in physics and mathematics, or otherwise requires evidence of high aptitude for graduate work in chemistry.

Students with Bachelor's degrees in fields other than chemistry may be admitted, but may be required to make up background deficiencies, usually by taking undergraduate course work.

M.2 Financial Support

Teaching assistantships for the academic year are available to qualified applicants; preference is normally given to Ph.D. students in the awarding of teaching assistantships. Research assistantships and fellowships are also available, principally for advanced students.

M.3 International Graduate Students

Students for whom English is not a native language are required to present TOEFL scores prior to admission. For those students awarded a teaching assistantship, a formal test of English language ability, appropriate for graduate teaching assistants, will be administered prior to the start of the first academic year. If satisfactory abilities in English are not demonstrated, specific remedial course work will be assigned. Classroom teaching assignments cannot be made until a student demonstrates fluency in spoken English.

All international teaching assistants for whom English is not a native language will be required to participate in the International Teaching Assistant Seminar (ESL 5400) during their first semester of registration or at the earliest opportunity thereafter.

M.4 Preliminary Advisement

Students who have been admitted to the graduate program in chemistry will be contacted by the Master's Advisor who will outline requirements for timely arrival and activities during orientation (typically the week prior to the beginning of classes). The information provided includes a tentative schedule for placement exams, new student orientation, and other activities. Thesis M.S. students will be contacted and advised by the Director of Graduate Studies until they have chosen the research advisor.

All entering students are required to demonstrate competence (at the undergraduate level) in four of the following five areas, Analytical, Biochemistry, Inorganic, Organic, and Physical chemistry. This proficiency may be demonstrated in one of the following ways:

1) Outstanding performance in recent undergraduate course work at UMSL.
2) Satisfactory performance in placement examinations. These examinations are given twice a year, approximately one week before the beginning of the fall and winter semesters.

or
3) Successful completion of assigned remedial course work.
M.S. students are required to complete successfully all assigned remedial course work (Chemistry 4212, 4302, 4412, or 4712) within two years (one year for full time students supported by the Department). Exceptions to this regulation must be approved by the Master’s advisor or by the Director of Graduate Studies. Based on the results of the placement exams, the Master’s Advisor will advise the students in order to develop a tentative plan of study that takes into consideration the student's interests and background.

All full time M.S. students supported by the Department must enroll in Chemistry 6812 and 6822. Introduction to Teaching and Graduate Research in Chemistry, beginning in their first semester of enrollment. These courses are normally taught during the Fall (6812) and Winter (6822) semesters, respectively.

M.5 Master's Degree Requirements

A minimum of 30 hours is required; no more than three hours in Chemistry 6897 (Chemistry Colloquium), and no more than 6 hours of assigned remedial course work (Chemistry 4212, 4302, 4412, or 4712), may be applied toward the required minimum of 30 credit hours. Master's students are not required to take the qualifying examinations. Students are expected to follow all other general requirements of the Graduate School regarding the master's degree and thesis requirements. These requirements are available at http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/students/handbook.html.

M.5.1 Master of Science in Chemistry without Thesis Forms M-1 and M-4

Non-thesis M.S. students need not be enrolled full-time. Of the minimum required 30 hours, at least 15 credits must be in coursework at the 5000-level. A maximum of 6 credits of Chemistry 6905 (Graduate Research in Chemistry), may be included in place of 4000-level courses. A maximum of 9 hours course work from outside the department may be applied to the degree, but only with prior approval by the Master’s Adviser or by the Director of Graduate Studies and confirmation by the faculty of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

A student should file an M-1 form before entering the final one-third of his/her program. This form lists courses completed and to be taken to satisfy all course requirements. A student also needs to file an M-4 form by the end of the fourth week of classes in the Winter or Fall semester in which the student graduates. If a student plans to graduate in the Summer semester, the M-4 form typically should be filed by June 5. All M-forms can be downloaded from the Graduate School website at http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/formsregs/mastforms.html.

M.5.2 Master of Science in Chemistry with Thesis Forms M-1 through M-4

Thesis M.S. students normally will enroll full-time for at least two consecutive semesters. During this time, students are expected to enroll in Chemistry 6905 (Graduate Research in Chemistry), and to work on research leading to a thesis. Selection of the thesis adviser will be coordinated by the Director of Graduate Studies. No more than 12 credits of Chemistry 6905 may be applied toward the minimum required 30 hours; at least 9 additional credit hours of courses at the 5000-level are also required. A maximum of 9 hours course work from outside the department may be applied to the degree, but only with prior approval by the Master’s Adviser or by the Director of Graduate Studies and confirmation by the faculty of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

In addition to filing the M-1 and M-4 forms as for the non-thesis option, students in the thesis track are also required to file the M-2 and M-3 forms. The M-2 form should be filed when a student is defending his/her thesis. When a thesis is completed and provisionally acceptable to his/her thesis committee, an M-3 form should be submitted to the Graduate school together with a copy of the thesis at least six weeks before commencement. All M-forms can be downloaded from the Graduate School website at http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/formsregs/mastforms.html.

M.6 Transfer to the Ph.D. Program

A Master's degree student in good standing may apply for admission to the Ph.D. program. Up to 30 hours credit completed at UMSL as an MS student may be transferred to the Ph.D. program.
Graduate Study in Chemistry. Doctoral (Ph.D.) Program

D.1 Admission Requirements

Applicants with at least a B.A. or a B.S. degree in chemistry (or the equivalent) may be admitted for graduate study in chemistry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis as pre-candidates for the doctoral (Ph.D.) degree. Admission to the Graduate School may be under regular, restricted, or provisional classification. Provisional admission is granted for one term to those students who appear to qualify for regular admission, but who have not submitted all the required admission information (e.g. general GRE scores, official transcripts, etc.). Provisional students will be reclassified to regular status after receipt of the required material. Students who fail to meet the minimum GPA requirements as set by the Graduate School (2.75/4.0) may be initially admitted as M.S. candidates under the restricted classification. Restricted students may be reclassified to regular status after successful completion of required course work, pursuant to the recommendation of the faculty and with approval of the Graduate School. Master’s degree program students may apply for admission to the Ph.D. program only if they are in good standing.

The department admissions committee makes all admission recommendations. The committee considers the applicant's grade-point-average, general GRE scores, and letters of recommendation, as well as the rigor of previous academic programs. The committee normally requires above-average performance in all areas of chemistry (analytical, biochemistry, inorganic, organic, and physical) as well as in physics and mathematics, or otherwise requires evidence of high aptitude for graduate work in chemistry.

Students with Bachelor’s degrees in fields other than chemistry may be admitted to pursue graduate chemistry studies, but may be required to make up background deficiencies, usually by taking undergraduate course work.

D.2 Financial Support

Teaching assistantships for the academic year are available to qualified applicants; a limited number are also available during the summer, usually to first year students. Research assistantships and fellowships are also available, principally for advanced students. Departmental support is not normally available beyond the fifth year in the program.

D.3 International Graduate Students

Students for whom English is not a native language are required to present TOEFL scores prior to admission, and to demonstrate satisfactory fluency in spoken English before they will be given classroom assignments as teaching assistants. A formal test of English language ability, appropriate for graduate teaching assistants will be administered prior to the start of the first academic year. If satisfactory abilities in English are not demonstrated, specific remedial course work will be assigned. Classroom teaching assignments cannot be made until a student demonstrates fluency in spoken English.

Those international graduate students for whom English is not a native language will be required to participate in the International Teaching Assistant Seminar (ESL 5400) during their first semester of registration or at the earliest opportunity thereafter.

D.4 Preliminary Advisement

Students who have been admitted to the graduate program in chemistry will be contacted by the Director of Graduate Studies, who will outline requirements for their timely arrival and required and suggested activities during orientation (typically the week prior to the beginning of classes). The information provided includes a tentative schedule for placement exams, new student orientation, and other activities. The Director of Graduate Studies serves as the adviser to all doctoral and thesis M.S. students until they have chosen a research adviser.
All entering students are required to demonstrate competence (at the undergraduate level) in four of the following five areas: Analytical, Biochemistry, Inorganic, Organic, and Physical chemistry. This proficiency may be demonstrated in one of the following ways:

1) Outstanding performance in recent undergraduate course work at UMSL.
2) Satisfactory performance in placement examinations. These examinations are given twice a year, approximately one week before the beginning of the fall and winter semesters.

or

3) Successful completion of assigned remedial course work.

Ph.D. students are required to successfully complete all assigned remedial course work (Chemistry 4212, 4302, 4412, or 4712) within one year. Exceptions to this regulation must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Based on the results of the placement exams, the Director of Graduate Studies will advise the students in order to develop a tentative plan of study that takes into consideration the student's interests and background. All full-time doctoral students must enroll in Chemistry 6812, Introduction to Graduate Study in Chemistry, and Chemistry 6822, Introduction to Graduate Research in Chemistry, beginning in their first semester of enrollment. These courses are normally taught during the Fall (6812) and Winter (6822) semesters, respectively.

D.5 Enrollment

Each semester, doctoral students are required to register for a minimum number of credits, nine credits for pre-candidates or 6 credits after advancement to candidacy (including Chemistry 6897, Chemistry Colloquium) until graduation (plus 3 equivalency credits covered by the Graduate School). The rules for the summer enrollment are as follows: 6 credits (plus 3 GRA/GTA assistantship credits covered by the Graduate School) for pre-candidates and 1 credit (plus 8 equivalency credits covered by the Graduate School) for doctoral candidates. All students requesting equivalency credits are required to submit Equivalency form G-14 available for download at http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/formsregs/general.html. Those who receive financial support through the department, either as Teaching Assistants, Graduate Research Assistants or Fellowship recipients, are required to register for at least nine hours each semester and a partial fee waiver will be provided by the Graduate School. Students are reminded of the Graduate School residency requirement that mandates enrollment for a total of at least 15 credit hours over two consecutive terms. (A “term” is defined as a regular semester or a summer session). In addition to the residence requirement of the Graduate School, students working toward the Ph.D. degree in chemistry are expected to spend at least two consecutive years of full-time study in the research phase of their program. Although this requirement does not preclude the possibility of outside employment, it does imply a full-time commitment to the study of, teaching of, and research in chemistry, and participation in all activities normally expected of graduate students.

The precise description of a full-time commitment will be determined on an individual basis by the student's adviser with the consent of the Chair. A copy of the registration form must be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies each semester.

D.6 Teaching Assistantship

All doctoral students are typically expected to participate as teaching assistants for at least two semesters. All full-time doctoral students must enroll in Chemistry 6812, Introduction to Graduate Study in Chemistry, and Chemistry 6822, Introduction to Graduate Research in Chemistry, beginning in their first semester of enrollment. These courses are normally taught during the Fall (6812) and Winter (6822) semesters, respectively. Those international graduate students for whom English is not a native language will be required to participate in the International Teaching Assistant Seminar (ESL 5400) during their first semester of registration.
D.7 Selection of a Thesis Adviser

Form D-2

During the fall semester, each research active faculty member will present a 30 minute summary of his or her research. Typically, there will be two presentations during each session held during the Friday 1-2 PM seminar slot. All new graduate students are required to attend even if they are not officially enrolled in Chemistry 6897.

Within one week upon completion of the faculty presentations (typically by the end of October) each student must submit Form A to the Director of Graduate Studies where the student lists the names of faculty members he/she would like to interview (typically not more than eight). Forms A and B are provided by the Director of Graduate Studies at the beginning of the selection process. Faculty is then given an opportunity to request to be added to or withdrawn from a specific student interview list. After that, the Director of Graduate Studies approves the Form A and the students may start interviewing the faculty on their list. Each student must indicate that he/she has spoken with each faculty member listed by obtaining the faculty member's signature on Form A. Upon completion of the interview process, Form A containing all signatures is submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies.

The student then submits Form B (typically by December 1) on which he/she indicates his/her first, second and third choices of thesis adviser. Assignments of research advisers will be made by the Department Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies. The Director of Graduate Studies then informs the potential adviser by providing an official letter to the Director of Graduate Studies. The Director of Graduate Studies then files Form D-2 to have the adviser's appointment approved by the Graduate Dean. Students entering the graduate program at times other than fall will be guided by the Director of Graduate Studies.

D.8 Appointment of a Comprehensive Examination Committee

Form D-1

As soon as appropriate, typically during the first year of doctoral study, all graduate students must, in consultation with their research adviser, select a comprehensive examination committee. The committee must consist of the research adviser and at least two other faculty members. The committee members will serve as mentors during the course of the student's research program.

The student should prepare Form D-1, signed by the research adviser and the Director of Graduate Studies, to be filed with the Graduate School. The committee appointed will evaluate the Doctoral dissertation proposal. (Form D-1 and other D forms can be downloaded from the Graduate School website at http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/formsregs/gradforms.html).

D.9 Qualifying Examinations

In addition to the requirements set forth by the Graduate School, each student seeking the Ph.D. degree must successfully complete a qualifying examination in his/her major area of specialization prior to advancement to candidacy. This examination is typically taken when formal course work has been completed successfully but not later than the beginning of the third year.

The qualifying examination will involve writing an original proposal for research that will be evaluated by the student's Committee. The student will select a topic for a research proposal that is not directly related to the expected research area. The research mentor must approve the topic. The student will prepare a proposal document not exceeding 10 pages in length, single spaced, excluding references but including all figures, tables, schemes, chemical structures, etc. The format of the document will be similar to that used either in NSF or NIH proposals and will conform to the following requirements. Each page will have minimum margins of 1” on all sides. The document will use an arial or helvetica sans serif typeface, not smaller than 11 points. Each page will be numbered at the bottom center. The cover page (not counted in the 10 page limit) will have the following format.

Student name:
Research mentor:
Proposal title:
Probable research area:
The candidate’s name and the proposal title should appear again, centered at the top of the second page. The proposal should be divided into the following sections (sections A-D should not exceed 10 pages and there is no page limit for section E).

A. Specific Aims
B. Background and Significance
C. Research Plan
D. Conclusion
E. References (references should include both starting and ending pages and the article title).

Copies of the written proposal will be circulated to Committee members at least one week prior to the oral presentation. Typically, an oral presentation of ~45 minutes will be followed by a discussion of the proposal involving the candidate and the committee members. The decision of the committee (pass or no pass by majority vote) must be reported to the Director of Graduate Studies in the form of an official letter signed by all members of the committee. An unsatisfactory examination will require remediation. At the committee’s discretion, the candidate may retake the examination or the committee may make other appropriate recommendations. Failure to meet the qualifying examination requirements may result in dismissal from the doctoral program.

D.10 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal

A doctoral student must provide a Dissertation Proposal before the student completes the equivalent of six semesters of full-time study; this will normally take place in the third year of the doctoral program. The presentation should be made within six months after the candidacy examination has been completed successfully.

The Dissertation Proposal contains both a written and an oral component. Evaluation of both components will be conducted by the Comprehensive Examination Committee. Thesis proposals will be presented to the department as a whole, but the examination component will be undertaken by the student’s Committee.

The goal of the thesis proposal presentation is to define the research project. The candidate should consider both the overall impact of the proposed work and its feasibility. The proposal will normally include preliminary results, but these should not form the bulk of the presentation. The candidate should, with the advice and consent of the research mentor or mentors, outline in seminar presentation format his or her goals and objectives for the research project. The oral presentation should be made with visual aids (“PowerPoint” slides). The presentation should not exceed 45 minutes. The written part of the dissertation proposal should be organized as follows. The cover page (not counted in the 10 page limit) will have the following format.

Student name:
Research mentor:
Proposal title:
Date graduate studies commenced:
Courses completed and grades:

Sections 1-6, indicated below, should not exceed 10 pages in length, single spaced, excluding references but including all figures, tables, schemes, chemical structures, etc. The format of the document will be similar to that used either in NSF or NIH proposals and will conform to the following requirements. Each page will have minimum margins of 1” on all sides. The document will use an arial or helvetica sans serif typeface, not smaller than 11 points. Each page will be numbered at the bottom center.

1. Background
2. Goals of the Overall Project
3. Specific Objectives
4. Preliminary Results (These will include results from the literature, other work in the group, the student's own work, etc.)
5. The Research Plan
6. Proposed Timeline
7. References (references should include both starting and ending pages and the article title).
The written proposal should be distributed to the Comprehensive Examination Committee at least one week in advance of any oral presentation. This presentation should be made as part of the regular Friday Colloquium series, at which time everyone will have an opportunity to ask questions and/or comment on the proposed research.

After the presentation, the Committee ideally will raise questions and concerns, as well as making recommendations for better or different approaches, targets, goals, or objectives. The Committee and candidate will reach a consensus on the project and approach, and the Committee will meet at least annually thereafter to monitor progress. Student progress will be summarized in writing by the Committee Chairperson and reported to the Director of Graduate Studies. After the oral defense of the Dissertation Proposal and any modifications suggested by the Committee members have been incorporated into the written document, a statement of proposed research (Form D-5) must be filed with the Graduate School along with a copy of the final Dissertation Proposal document. (This and other D forms can be downloaded from the Graduate School website at http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/formsregs/gradforms.html).

The dissertation proposal is not intended to restrict the normal development of a research project that may involve a direction different from that originally proposed. However, an entirely new dissertation project will require submission of a new dissertation proposal accompanied by an oral presentation.

D.11 Advancement to Candidacy

In addition to fulfilling all Graduate School requirements, students must complete the following:

1) at least 18 hours of non-dissertation work, which may not include:
   - Chemistry 4212, Instrumental Analysis
   - Chemistry 4233, Laboratory in Instrumental Analysis
   - Chemistry 4302, Physical Chemistry for the Life Sciences
   - Chemistry 4343, Physical Chemistry Laboratory II
   - Chemistry 4412, Advanced Inorganic Chemistry
   - Chemistry 4433, Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory
   - Chemistry 4712, Biochemistry
   - Chemistry 4733, Biochemical Laboratory
   - Chemistry 6196, Advanced Reading in Chemistry
   - Chemistry 6487, Inorganic Problem Seminar
   - Chemistry 6687, Organic Problem Seminar
   - Chemistry 6787, Biochemistry Problem Seminar
   - Chemistry 6812, Introduction to Graduate Study in Chemistry
   - Chemistry 6822, Introduction to Graduate Research in Chemistry
   - Chemistry 6897, Chemistry Colloquium

At least 9 of the minimum 18 hours must be at the 5000 level. Credit for coursework performed outside the department may be applied to the 18 hour minimum contingent upon departmental approval. Normally, no more than nine such credits will be approved. (NOTE: Eighteen hours of formal course work is the recommended minimum requirement currently pending approval by the Senate; additional courses may be recommended by the student's advisor.)

2) Pass a Qualifying Examination.

3) Present a Dissertation Proposal seminar.

4) File a Dissertation Proposal with the Graduate School.

5) Be in good standing.

When the students satisfy all of these requirements, Advancement for Candidacy Application (Form D-5) must be filed with the Graduate School. (This and other D forms can be downloaded from the Graduate School website at http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/formsregs/gradforms.html).

Successful advancement to candidacy allows the student to enroll in 6 credits/Fall and Winter semester or 1 credit/Summer semester (requires equivalency form G-14 available for download at http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/formsregs/general.html). Doctoral candidate students enroll in Doctoral Dissertation Research (Chemistry 7905, currently pending approval by the Senate).
D.12 Dissertation

The Doctoral Dissertation Committee shall consist of Comprehensive Examination Committee and at least one additional member of the Graduate Faculty who can contribute their expertise to the dissertation defense. The Committee should include either a Chemistry and Biochemistry Faculty member from outside the student's specialization area or a Graduate Faculty member from another Department at UM – St. Louis. Alternatively, a recognized scholar from another University may serve as a member of the Doctoral Dissertation Committee upon the recommendation of the Department and upon approval by the Graduate Dean. The additional faculty member is selected by the student's adviser in consultation with the student (it requires completion of Form D-4); the Committee is then appointed by the Graduate Dean. This Committee gives preliminary approval to the dissertation (Form D-6). (This and other D forms can be downloaded from the Graduate School website at http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/formsregs/gradforms.html).

In order to meet the formal graduation deadline, the dissertation must be submitted to the Graduate School no later than six weeks prior to the date of graduation. At the same time, an electronic copy of an Oral Defense Announcement must be forwarded to the Graduate School (D-9). The schedule of the final oral examination must be arranged at least three weeks after the preliminary approval of the dissertation. The official deadlines are typically announced by the graduate school at the beginning of each semester.

Final approval of the Dissertation (Form D-7, verified by the Chairperson of the Dissertation Committee and approved by the Graduate Dean), indicating that all necessary corrections have been made, must be obtained prior to graduation. Since the final dissertation submission is now made in electronic format, it is a student's responsibility to obtain a bound hard copy of his/her dissertation for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. This can be made by contacting an off-campus bindery with direct billing/shipping to the Department.

D.13 Student Review

The progress of doctoral students is monitored closely, and reviewed at least each year, but preferably every six months. Each student's progress in research, course work, examination, and teaching must be reviewed. The student's Committee will undertake periodic evaluations and the student's mentor will be responsible for summarizing progress in writing to the student and to the Director of Graduate Studies. In some cases, specific course work or other requirements may be set by the Committee in order for the student to continue in the graduate program.

In particular cases, the progress and performance of new doctoral students may also be reviewed by the entire Faculty prior to the awarding of teaching assistantships for the following term. Problems or special circumstances may be considered by a committee of the faculty as a whole.

Graduate Study in Chemistry. Probation and Dismissal

A graduate student whose transcript GPA falls below 3.0 is automatically placed on academic probation. The faculty of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry may also place a graduate student on probation if his/her GPA in coursework (excluding Chemistry 6196, 6487, 6687, 6787, 6812, 6822, 6897, and 6905) falls below 3.0, or if he/she otherwise fails to meet the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry's standards for satisfactory progress. Failure to meet the qualifying examination requirements may result in dismissal from the doctoral program. Letters so indicating will be sent by the Director of Graduate Studies to the student with a copy sent to the Graduate School.

The progress of each student on probation is reviewed after each semester. At that time, the student may be removed from probation, continued on probation, or dismissed from the program. Students may not continue on probation for more than one calendar year without the recommendation of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Faculty and the consent of the Dean of the Graduate School.
Graduate Study in Chemistry. Fellowships and Scholarships

The following internal scholarships, fellowships and awards are currently available to graduate students. Graduate students are encouraged to consult their faculty mentors or course instructors regarding the nominations for particular awards.

Graduate Student Research Accomplishment Award. This award is presented annually to a Graduate Student based on an outstanding research record as indicated by published results and by presentations at regional, national, and international meetings. The recipient of the award is determined by vote of the faculty.

Jack L. Coombs Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. This award was established to recognize a graduate student TA whose performance in the last academic year was truly exceptional. In addition to an individual award, other TAs may be recognized for good performance. The recipient of the award is determined by vote of the faculty.

M. Thomas Jones Memorial Fellowship. This fellowship is given each semester for the outstanding seminar presented by a Doctoral Student. This fellowship is determined by the vote of the graduate students only, who should be reminded of the importance of performing this assignment responsibly and honestly.

Outstanding Master’s Student Award. This award recognizes an outstanding performance by a current Masters Student in good standing who has fulfilled all deficiencies, completed 18 credit hours of coursework, and has enrolled for at least one course in the current academic year. The recipient of the award is determined by vote of the faculty.

Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship. This fellowship awarded and funded by the Graduate School supports the completion of the dissertation by providing a stipend up to the month in which the dissertation is successfully defended. The award is funded for a maximum of 12 months. The recipient(s) is/are expected to have defended their dissertation proposal and/or have made sufficient progress so that it will require no more than one year to finish all phases of the dissertation. Currently, two ranked applications may be forwarded by a department to the campus-wide competition; the awardees are determined by vote of the Graduate Council.

Graduate Study in Chemistry. Chemistry Graduate Student Association

The Chemistry Graduate Student Association (CGSA) is a student-run organization that encourages scientific and social interaction among graduate students and supports them in their pursuit of an advanced degree in the discipline of chemistry and/or biochemistry. This organization serves as a voice for the graduate students, providing them a way to express their comments, concerns and ideas about the department, and encourages cooperation among the graduate students, alumni, department administrators, faculty and the university. To achieve the goals set forth by the CGSA, various service, social, networking, and fundraising events are held throughout the year. In addition, yearly officer elections and intermittent General Assemblies are also conducted in which the graduate student body meets to discuss organizational business. To join the CGSA or for further inquiries about their activities please send a message to: UMSLCGSA@umsl.edu