

**DePaul University
Department of Chemistry**

CHE398 Experiential Learning Research Contract

Research Advisor: _____

Research Student: _____

Student ID number: _____

Student email address: _____

Quarter taken (circle): Autumn Winter Spring Summer I Summer II

Year: |_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|

Quarter hours (circle): 4.0 2.0

Students must have a total of 4.0 credit hours in experiential learning in order to fulfill the requirements of the Liberal Studies Program. If the 2.0 credit hour option was chosen above and you have already completed 2.0 credit hours of CHE398, please indicate the session in which that credit was earned:

Quarter taken (circle): Autumn Winter Spring Summer I Summer II

Year: |_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|

Undergraduate research should be taken seriously. More than in other academic courses, your results are usually tied directly to time spent in research, hence your time must be scheduled each week. Because assignments in research are usually long range, it is easy to let commitment to research time lapse a bit, especially when confronted with a busy schedule. This is not acceptable on a regular basis, especially since this course is designed to meet the Liberal Studies requirements for Experiential Learning. Faculty members appreciate the need for flexibility, but research time deferred one week must be made up the next.

Students enrolled in Chemistry 398 are expected to:

1. Work on their research project weekly (where work is equivalent to laboratory or library research). A minimum of ten hours per week is expected.
2. Attend and participate in all CHE398 assignments and activities, as indicated by your research advisor.
3. Attend weekly research group meetings or individual meetings with your research advisor. At this time, research successes and problems will be discussed within the confines of those working on similar type projects.
4. Check your email at least once a day.
5. Get your notebook checked and initialed by your research advisor prior to leaving for the day. If you fail to keep a detailed lab notebook, you will not be allowed to continue. You are also expected to turn in brief, weekly written progress reports to your advisor.
6. Attend chemistry related presentations by invited speakers.
7. Review the ethical guidelines for chemists described by the American Chemical Society at: <http://pubs.acs.org/page/policy/ethics/index.html>. Based on your review of these guidelines, write a two-page reflection on how these guidelines apply to your research project. This reflection will be incorporated into your thesis (see below).
8. Submit a written thesis, which should be 20 – 30 pages long (double-spaced; not including appendices or references). The thesis should include a detailed description of your research results, as well as a thorough description of any/all instrumentation used in measuring data, and the theory behind any/all instrumental techniques used. In addition to your research advisor, two other faculty members will serve on your thesis committee and provide comments on your thesis. Your thesis must include the ethics section described above. Thesis formats will vary; please consult your research advisor for details.
9. Give an oral defense of your thesis to the department at large, including your thesis committee. Presentation formats will vary depending on the research advisor and the nature of the research; please consult your research advisor for details.

You are responsible for talking to your advisor about any additional or specific expectations. These may include additional presentations of your research results (in the form of a poster or a talk) to the department.

Grading

Your research advisor will assign your final grade. Some of the things that he or she will consider are:

1. The quality of your research effort;
2. Hours worked/reliability;
3. Weekly progress reports;
4. Your thesis;
5. Your thesis defense to the department;

In addition, both you and your research advisor should review the general expectations for Junior Year Experiential Learning Requirement:

<http://liberalstudies.depaul.edu/FacultyStaffResources/CourseProposalGuidelines/JuniorYearExperientialLearning.asp>

The letter grade for this course will not be entered until the student has turned in a final paper to the instructor, with a copy to the chair. Suggested letter grades and their requirements are listed below.

- A grade of "C" will be assigned for meeting minimum expectations.
- A grade of "B" will be assigned for going above the minimum expectations and displaying some degree of ingenuity and persistence.
- A grade of "A" can be earned by meeting all of the above requirements plus displaying a high degree of enthusiasm.

Please note that no grade will be assigned until your laboratory space is clean and has been inspected and the key to your research space (if applicable) has been returned to the departmental assistant.

Signature of Faculty Advisor Date

Signature of Student Date

Please submit a copy of this signed contract to the main office.

_____ Office use only _____

Term: |_|_|_|_|_| Class number: |_|_|_|_|_| To CHE: ___/___/___ Rpt ___/___/___ |_|_|

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