# Radiochemistry PhD Program Handbook

## Welcome

Welcome to the Radiochemistry Ph.D. Program in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UNLV. Our graduate program offers exceptional research opportunities for advanced training in the discipline dedicated to the study of the chemical and physical properties of radioactive elements. The Radiochemistry Ph.D. program is a student driven, research intensive program that stresses both the fundamental and applied aspects of radiological science. The curriculum and research opportunities provide a comprehensive and interdisciplinary examination of topics in many areas including: nuclear forensics; advanced nuclear fuels and novel waste forms, actinide- and lanthanide chemistry, nuclear fuel cycle and advanced separations, radiopharmaceuticals, and the fundamental and applied research on technetium. Our program has research collaborations with other universities, national laboratories, and international organizations providing ample opportunity for a comprehensive understanding of the state-of-the art in the arena of radiochemistry as exercised on a global scale.

### Mission Statement(s)

The mission of the College of Sciences is to serve the students of UNLV, the citizens of Nevada and the United States, and society worldwide through research and discovery that expands knowledge in the natural, physical, and mathematical sciences. We communicate this knowledge to students in a rewarding learning environment, and to communities beyond the university through active engagement of diverse constituencies.

The College of Sciences endeavors to develop and nurture a community of scientists and scholars who are among the world leaders in their disciplinary areas, and who generate knowledge at the forefront of science. Research and discovery, in symbiosis with education, are our hallmarks. Addressing fundamental questions related to earth sciences, biological systems, physical and chemical systems, mathematics, and the universe will continue to be core focus areas. In conjunction with colleagues within and outside of the university, faculty and students participate in the application and exploitation of our scientific discoveries and expertise to the benefit of the university, the citizens of Nevada, and society at large.

The College of Sciences creates innovative and engaging learning environments in which students are educated to the full extent of their abilities. Our programs produce highly skilled and knowledgeable scientists educated in a premier research environment. In addition, we provide the education needed by diverse student populations, ranging from formal grounding in the sciences for technical disciplines, to a general appreciation and understanding of the sciences for non-specialists. We strive to develop comprehensive educational initiatives and services, and engage our alumni and friends in mutually beneficial relationships in support of teaching, research, and community service activities.

"The eternal mystery of the world is its comprehensibility."
— Albert Einstein

### Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the UNLV Graduate Catalog, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: valarie.burke@unlv.edu or kendall.hartley@unlv.edu.

## Department Graduate Faculty

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Faculty must hold either associate or full graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the Graduate Faculty status web page.

## Program Information

Doctor of Philosophy—Radiochemistry
Sub-Plan 1: Post-Bachelor's Track
Sub-Plan 2: Post-Master's Track
http://catalog.unlv.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=17&poid=4221

### Contact Information

https://www.unlv.edu/chemistry/radiochemistry

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## Program Requirements

Program requirements regarding admission, coursework and culminating experience are found in the graduate catalog.

{{Note: Direct links to the program page in the graduate catalog will be added by the Graduate College. The link in the template links to the M.S. in Accounting as an example.}}

### Advisory Committee Guidelines

The Doctoral Advisory Committee must consist of at least four graduate faculty members as follows:

- Academic Advisor (Committee Chair)--must have full graduate faculty status in Radiochemistry
- Graduate College Representative--must have full graduate faculty status at UNLV in a program outside of Radiochemistry and the host department
- Committee Member—must have full graduate faculty status in Radiochemistry
- Committee Member—must have full graduate faculty status in Radiochemistry

Additional committee members external to UNLV are allowed with approval from the Doctoral Advisory Committee. External members without graduate faculty status at UNLV will be non-voting members of the Ph.D. examination committee.

The Doctoral Advisory Committee is responsible for guiding students through the Radiochemistry Ph.D. program. Upon entering the program, the Radiochemistry Graduate Coordinator will serve as Academic Advisor to all students until individual advisory committees have been established.

## Degree Program Benchmarks

1. Students must select an Academic Advisor by the end of the first year in the program.
2. Students are required to enroll in and receive a letter grade of B (3.0) or above in all core Radiochemistry courses. If a grade lower than B is earned in any given course, it may be repeated one time, providing the student is in good standing.
3. Students must establish a Qualifying Examination Committee prior to scheduling the oral qualifying examination. The Qualifying Examination Committee is made up of a minimum of three members:
    - Academic Advisor
    - UNLV Radiochemistry Faculty member
    - A UNLV faculty member with affiliate, associate or full graduate faculty status in Radiochemistry.
4. Students must schedule and pass an oral qualifying exam within 1.5 years of satisfactorily completing the core Radiochemistry courses. The examination is held in closed session and is designed to test students on the fundamental science underlying radiochemistry, including all content covered in the core courses.
5. The oral qualifying examination consists of two presentations which are presented to the Qualifying Examination Committee. The first presentation is an overview of the student's proposed research, including relevant literature, a proposed research plan and summary/results of current research. The second presentation summarizes a recent published scientific article on a topic not directly related to the candidate's proposed dissertation research. The article must be approved by the Academic Advisor prior to the exam.
6. Students who do not pass the oral qualifying examination may repeat the exam one time within 6 months, but no sooner than 3 months from the first attempt. Students who do not pass the oral qualifying exam on the second attempt will be severed from the program.
7. Students must prepare and successfully defend their dissertation prospectus prior to completion of their 6$^{th}$ semester.
8. To advance to candidacy, students must pass the oral qualifying exam and successfully defend their dissertation prospectus within 3 years of entering the Radiochemistry Ph.D. Program.
9. Students must complete all the requirements for the Ph.D. degree within eight years (Sub-Plan 1), or six years if entering the program with an approved master's degree (Sub-Plan 2).
10. Students are expected to write a dissertation demonstrating both knowledge of a specific topic and the ability to conduct high quality original research.
11. The student's dissertation must be written in collaboration with the student's Academic Advisor and Advisory Committee. The dissertation must be accepted by the student's Advisory Committee and publicly defended prior to the completion of the degree program

## Program Timeline

Sub-Plan 1: Post-Bachelor's Track – 60 credits beyond the baccalaureate degree typically 4.5 – 6 years of study, but no more than 8 years.
Sub-Plan 2: Post-Master's Track – 30 credits beyond the master's degree typically 2.5-3 years of study, but no more than 6 years.

## Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines

UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the graduate catalog.

Students are required to participate in the weekly Radiochemistry seminar each semester they are in residence at UNLV. Students may only be exempted from this requirement due to scheduling conflicts, with the prior approval of their Academic Advisor and notification to the Graduate Coordinator.

Students are required to review all safety notices distributed by the Program and adhere to all safety policies and procedures. Continuous or willful neglect and/or intentional or continuous disregard for laboratory safety procedures may result in separation from the program.

### Annual Review Procedures

Students are required to make adequate yearly progress towards degree completion. Students must meet with their Academic Advisor at regular intervals and must attend the weekly Radiochemistry seminar while in residence at UNLV.

Failure to make satisfactory progress as determined by the students' Academic Advisor and/or Advisory Committee may include: failure to complete six credits per calendar year toward the degree program; unsatisfactory grades (including Incompletes, grades below B, or Withdrawals); failure to consult with the Academic Advisor when requested; failure to establish an Advisory Committee; failure to establish the groundwork for an acceptable dissertation; failure of the oral qualifying examination; failure to pass prospectus defense; or continuous or willful neglect and/or intentional or continuous disregard for laboratory safety.

### Additional Program Information

Students are required to present the results of their research at least one time per semester at the weekly Radiochemistry seminar. In addition, students are expected to participate in national and international conferences relevant to their research. Students are also required to submit research-based manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals prior to completion of the program.

## University Resources

#### Academic Success Center

The goal of the Academic Success Center is to help students do well academically and complete they studies on time. They offer or will refer you to such programs and resources as tutoring, advising, skills testing, career exploration and more. They guide students every step of the way to the many established resources created to ensure they complete their educational goals. Learn more about the programs and services the center currently offers.

#### Alumni Association

With an alumni base 90,000 strong, the UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

#### Commencement Office

Located in the UNLV Registrar's Office, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College.

#### Office of Diversity Initiatives

The vision of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to provide leadership and support for UNLV's diversity mission: *to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment*. This Office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

#### Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

#### Office of International Student and Scholars

International Students and Scholars (ISS) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be

authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

### Jean Nidetch Women's Center

The Jean Nidetch Women's Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women's Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

### UNLV Libraries

UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

### Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)

The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

### Office of Student Conduct

The Office of Student Conduct is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the *UNLV Student Code of Conduct* by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

### Office of Veteran Services

The UNLV Office of Veteran Services is staffed with veterans and GI Bill-experienced staff to assist more than 1,000 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

### The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

### Writing Center

This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page.

## University Policies and Procedures

Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the following websites:

- Academic Integrity
- Activation for Military Service
- Change of Address
- FERPA/Privacy Rights
- Health Insurance - Mandatory
- Jean Clery Campus Safety and Security Report
- Proof of Immunization
- Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects
- Rebelmail Policy
- Student Conduct Code
- Student Computer Use Policy
- Title IX

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the Graduate Catalog :

- Academic Calendar
- Academic Policies
- Admission and Registration Information
- Degree Progression Policies & Procedures

In addition, the Graduate College website contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

*Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.*

## Handbook Information

[[Revision Policies and/or Procedures]]

| Last revised | Revised by | Changes summary |
|---|---|---|
| 02/09/2017 | Thomas Hartmann | |
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