American Chemical Society Accreditation for the Brooklyn College Bachelor of Science Degree

Summer 2015

The Brooklyn College Department of Chemistry is an ACS-accredited program authorized to grant ACS-accredited BS degrees to students. The requirements for ACS certification amount to completing a BS in Chemistry at Brooklyn College and completing a specific set of elective courses.

ACS accreditation is not necessary either for a career in industry or for graduate work. However, it does serve to reassure prospective employers about the background of a prospective employee if they are unfamiliar with the program. While Brooklyn College (and CUNY generally) has an excellent reputation in the northeastern US, those considering working elsewhere in the country or internationally may want to consider acquiring ACS accreditation.

Requirements for an ACS degree:
Students seeking an ACS-accredited degree must complete all of Brooklyn College's required courses for a BS degree, including the 9 credits in the designated courses in advanced electives in Chemistry.

ACS accreditation requires specific courses. These courses may be completed as part of the Brooklyn College requirements, or may be taken in addition to those requirements:

- Students must take the following courses: Chem 4571 and either Chem 4761 or 4760
- Choose 2 elective courses from the following list: Chem 3420, 4530, 4550, 4581, 4640, 5010, 5110.
- Demonstrate that they have 400 hours of laboratory experience in Chemistry courses. Required laboratory courses for the BS (Chem 3415, 3511, 3521, 4610, 4620) account for 300 hours. Students must choose electives or take independent study courses for the remaining 100 hours. Laboratory courses that satisfy other requirements will also have their hours applied toward this requirement (e.g. Chem 4760 satisfies the requirement noted above and applies laboratory hours toward this requirement). Laboratory courses in departments other than Chemistry may not be counted toward this total. Laboratory hours associated with each course are given in the table to the right.

Laboratory Hours
Chem 3420 (90 hours)
Chem 4530 (90 hours)
Chem 4572 (60 hours)
Chem 4760 (60 hours)
Chem 5010* _____
Chem 5110* _____
(Make sure your research mentor documents hours for Chem 73 or 83; see below.)

Using Independent Study courses to meet ACS Accreditation Requirements:
The ACS allows the use of independent study courses to meet certain requirements for certification. Students seeking to do so should do the following:

- Students wishing to use independent study courses to satisfy ACS requirements must submit a well-written, comprehensive, and well-documented research report including safety considerations.
- Students wishing to apply independent study hours toward their required laboratory hours must submit a letter from their faculty advisor indicating the number of hours actually committed to laboratory work for the semester they were enrolled. Students are encouraged to make their mentors aware of this requirement at the beginning of the semester.

See the department advisor if you have any questions on the criteria for the degree.