

HONORS in CHEMISTRY GRADING CRITERIA

The FOUR categories considered for degrees of honors are:

- thesis (content and scientific writing)
- lab time and productivity, based on thesis and weekly progress reports.
- oral presentation and questions
- written exam

It is assumed that if the student has continued on in the program to this point, he/she has met all requirements including seminar attendance, individual presentations, and other departmental participation expectations for honors students (see departmental research statement). Any extra efforts made by the student in these areas will be considered when a student's performance grade lies on a grade boundary. In other words, a student can only benefit from further participation.

Degrees of Honors:

Highest Honors	A grades in all four categories (the exceptional student)
High Honors	A and B grades
Honors	A, B, and C grades
No Honors	Student has not performed adequately (D grade) in one or more of the above categories.

Letter grades for each category will be determined by the Chemistry department faculty, and in the case of the thesis and Oral presentation, by the outside examiner as well.

Grades include:

- A – exceptional
- B – good; better than adequate
- C – adequate
- D – not adequate

What constitutes an A-grade?

Thesis: exceptionally well written in scientific language and form – free of grammatical and chemical errors; incorporation of a significant amount of literature, some of which has been contributed by the student through regular literature searching; excellent discussion of results; noted contributions of original ideas.

Lab time and productivity: student regularly puts in significantly more than the expected hours (i.e., research is a top priority); it is clear that exceptional effort has been made (even in times of low productivity).

Oral presentation and questions: excellent organization and communication of material; overheads are clear and useful; student is comfortable with and has command over the material (does not rely on notes); student has (nearly) mastered public speaking; student is able to answer questions well.

Written Exam: Student shows mastery of all chosen 5 of 6 categories.

What constitutes a B, C, or D grade? These are at the discretion of the faculty members, collectively.