Dartmouth College
Department of Chemistry
102 Burke Laboratory

HANOVER NEW HAMPSHIRE 03755
TELEPHONE: (603) 646-2501
FAX: (603) 646-3946

CHEMISTRY 87 — INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

The following statement outlines the procedures for chemistry majors enrolling in Chemistry 87, Undergraduate Investigation in Chemistry.

Students seeking academic credit for Chemistry 87 may arrange, by mutual agreement, to undertake an original individual research project under the supervision of a regular faculty member of the Chemistry Department, a faculty member of another Dartmouth science department, or a PhD (or MD) scientist at another academic or research institution. If the project is to be supervised by a faculty member or scientist outside the Chemistry Department, the Chair, in consultation with other Chemistry faculty, will determine whether the project has a sufficient chemical component to qualify for Chemistry 87 credit. If so, a member of the Chemistry faculty will be assigned as a liaison with the student and their advisor. The student must obtain formal permission to enroll in the course by filing a copy of the form "Application for Admission to Chemistry 87 and/or The Honors Program" (available in the Chemistry Department office, 102 Burke, or on the Department's web site) with the Chair, who is the course director.

Chemistry 87 can be taken for credit up to three times but can be used only once to satisfy the courses required for a chemistry major. The Registrar requires a permission card signed by the course director (Chair of the Chemistry Department) every time it is taken for credit. Grades for Chemistry 87 are not assigned until the research project is completed and a written report (thesis) has been prepared and defended (see below). A grade of ON (on going) is used until completion of the report and the oral examination. The supervisor will meet with the student at the end of each term of Chemistry 87 to discuss the student's progress, at which time an assessment of the work done that term will be provided.

At the end of the project, which in most cases comes in the senior spring term, the student will prepare a written report (thesis) following a standard scientific format (senior theses from previous years are available in Kresge Library), with the guidance of the supervisor. This report will be provided to the supervisor and one or two Chemistry faculty members (appointed by the course director), who will constitute the student's Chemistry 87 committee. This 2-3 member committee (three members for Honors students, two members otherwise) will conduct an oral examination of the student's work. If the research is done entirely off site and the advisor is not able to participate in this examination, a Chemistry faculty member will be appointed as the titular head of the committee. The grades for all terms of Chemistry 87 will be determined at this time, based on the written report, the oral examination, and the assessment by the supervisor of the overall quality and quantity of the research.

Many students will elect Chemistry 87 one or more times as part of the Honors Program (see the description in the ORC), and all Chemistry Honors students are strongly encouraged to do so. In these cases the student will be expected to demonstrate a greater degree of independence, insight and related chemistry knowledge in their research, in their thesis, and in their oral examination than do students who take Chemistry 87 outside of the Honors Program. Students are reminded that they must formally apply to the Chemistry Honors Program by submitting the above-mentioned form by the third day of the winter term of their senior year.