

Instructions for identifying research opportunities and completing the CHEM 490/494 Directed Research Application

Students interested in taking CHEM 490/494 to satisfy degree or CHEM Honors requirements will need to follow the steps below in order to receive course clearance:

Identifying Research Opportunities

Visit the Department of Chemistry Faculty Web Page to explore potential faculty mentors and areas of research offered through the Chemistry Department. Students should reach out directly to faculty members whose research they are interested in and inquiring if there are any undergraduate researcher openings in their lab. Chemistry faculty research and contacts can be found through <https://dornsife.usc.edu/chemistry/faculty/>.

Identify 3-5 faculty members whose research you are interested in and who you would like to work with.

Email faculty to inquire about undergraduate research opportunity in his/her lab. You should give a succinct description on why you are interested to work in their particular lab (or even the particular area of projects), as well as your plan (e.g., time available; research for course credit or volunteering).

Keep an open mind and broaden your search. You should not limit yourself to just the Chemistry faculty, as our majors have worked with faculty in other departments (e.g., Biology, Physics) and other schools (Viterbi, Medical School and Pharmacy at HSC). The same is true regarding the research area.

Be persistent and keep trying to reach out to faculty.

CHEM 490/494 Application Instructions

If you are interested in CHEM 490, you must conduct research under the supervision of a chemistry faculty member or approved USC faculty. To register for the course, please complete and submit the following:

1. A copy of your safety certificate or proof of refresher course.
2. To register for and complete a safety training (<https://adminops.usc.edu/>), please look up the schedule (<http://www.localendar.com/public/USCEHS>) for times and dates. Email safetytraining@usc.edu for enrollment (Safety training or refresher course must be completed within one year of CHEM 490 start date).
3. Complete all sections of the CHEM 490/494 application before obtaining required signatures. Including:
 - Semester/Yr
 - Demographic Information
 - Chemistry Classes completed
 - Intended number of CHEM 490/494 Units
 - Proposed Faculty Supervisor/Title of Project/Weekly Work Schedule
4. Obtain signatures from your faculty supervisor and faculty advisor (the faculty advisor may serve both roles).
5. Submit completed CHEM 490/494 application with required signatures via email to leonjohn@usc.edu (Do not contact the Chemistry Department to request the Chair's signature). Please note, incomplete applications will not be accepted.