



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA
 Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

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Ph.D. IN

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 Start lab work immediately.



National Average: 6.7 years

OKLAHOMA REVAMPS GRADUATE PROGRAM

Chemistry department takes **MODULAR APPROACH** to coursework and puts research up front

CELIA HENRY ARNAUD, CHEMICAL & ENGINEERING WASHINGTON

THE 28 STUDENTS who entered the University of Oklahoma’s chemistry graduate program this fall are “newbies” in more ways than one: Not only are they beginners at the school, but they’re also the first to experience a completely revamped curriculum. That curriculum—more than a decade in the making—was inspired by the chemistry department’s participation in the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate and by the American Chemical Society’s 2012 report “Advancing Graduate Education in the Chemical Sciences,” two efforts to

modernize Ph.D. education and training.

Over the years, “we had experimented piecemeal with changing our curriculum, but it was basically putting Band-Aids on what we already had,” says Michael T. Ashby, the professor who spearheaded the revamp. “Last year, we decided basically to burn everything to the ground and start from scratch.”

As part of the overhaul, the department switched to a so-called modular approach composed of shorter, more focused classes and eliminated chemistry



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