

Allegheny College Department of Chemistry
Guidelines for Senior Project Time Commitment

Success in the Senior Project is assessed on the basis of your *investment* in the project, your *expertise* in the discipline, and *communication* of your findings (for further details, please see the rubric for Senior Project evaluation). A foundation stone to investment is the quantity and quality of time devoted to the project. While no two projects are identical, the Chemistry Department has established a universal set of guidelines for time commitment in the Senior Project, as follows:

- For the fall semester (CHEM 600/BCHEM 600), students are expected to spend at least eight solid hours per week on the comp, most of which will be spent in the lab.
- For the spring semester (CHEM 610/BCHEM 610), students are expected to spend at least 16 solid hours per week on the comp, most of which will be spent in the lab.
- Lab times are established in consultation with the research advisor in such a way that a) maximizes the availability of the advisor during the student's active lab times, and b) minimizes equipment conflicts with fellow researchers.
- Lab times should generally be large, unbroken blocks of time (ca. three hours). Example schedules for each semester are provided on the next page.
- Lab times are agreed upon at the beginning of the semester, and students are expected to be active in the lab during those times. On the rare occasion that a student is unable to be in lab during the scheduled time, the student should make this known to the research advisor in advance.

Please be aware that time spent on the project is not, in itself, a guarantee for success in the comp. The successful Senior Project student will not only exhibit time commitment, but will also demonstrate the efficient use of this time, effective problem-solving skills, perseverance, and growth as a researcher.

Example Comp Lab Schedule for **Fall** Senior Project

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8am							
9am		PHYS-102-02		PHYS-102-02		PHYS-102-02	
10am		DMS-110-03	PSYCH-480-00	DMS-110-03	PSYCH-480-00		
11am			BIO-320-00		BIO-320-00		
12pm							
1pm			Courses are examples only. Yours will be different.				
2pm		COMP LAB	PHYS-102-02	COMP LAB	BIO-320-00		
3pm							
4pm							
5pm			Comp times are not scheduled through Self-service.				
6pm							
7pm	COMP						
8pm							
9pm			COMP				
10pm							
11pm							

Example Comp Lab Schedule for **Spring** Senior Project

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8am							
9am		PHYS-102-02	PSYCH-480-00	PHYS-102-02	PSYCH-480-00	PHYS-102-02	
10am		DMS-110-03		DMS-110-03		COMP LAB	
11am			BIO-320-00		BIO-320-00		
12pm							
1pm		Courses are examples only. Yours will be different.					
2pm		COMP LAB	PHYS-102-02	COMP LAB	BIO-320-00	COMP LAB	
3pm							
4pm							
5pm		Comp times are not scheduled through Self-service.					
6pm							
7pm							
8pm		COMP	COMP	COMP	COMP		
9pm							
10pm							
11pm							