Program in Chemical and Biological Engineering

MS Handbook

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SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the MS program in Chemical and Biological Engineering!

This handbook and the policies of The Graduate School (TGS) set the official guidelines for completion of milestones in this program. In addition to these milestones, this handbook includes information on other key program policies. TGS maintains a useful New Student Guide, attached as an appendix.

A note on terminology before we go further: you are entering as a graduate student in the program of chemical engineering. Most of the faculty in the program are members of the department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, which runs the courses, and is a part of the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science (McCormick). However, your program is administered by The Graduate School (TGS). Upon successful completion of the program requirements you will get an MS degree in chemical engineering.

For any questions on lab, program, or TGS policies, never hesitate to ask your academic or research advisor, the department chair, the graduate program assistant, or the director of graduate studies (DGS). Please make yourself familiar with the department homepage, especially to learn about the duties of the department staff and how they can help you.

Welcome to the program, and good luck!

Randall Snurr, Department Chair

Keith Tyo, Director of Graduate Studies

Jennifer Cole, Assistant Chair
SECTION 2. PROGRAM MILESTONES
SECTION 2a. SUMMARY AND TIMELINE

Chemical engineering offers two options for the MS program: coursework-based MS and thesis MS.

For the **coursework-based MS**, students typically complete all 10 coursework units required for the degree in 3-4 academic quarters. See Figure 1.

**Fall** | **Winter** | **Spring** | **Summer**
---|---|---|---
**Year 1** | Coursework | Coursework | Coursework |
| **Year 2** | Coursework (as needed) | | |

*Figure 1.* Timeline for completion of MS degree. Primary activities in a quarter are course-based (green).

For the **thesis-based MS**, coursework is typically completed in Spring of Year 1 or Fall Year 2, and there are two additional milestones set by the program, as shown in Figure 2:
- Quarter 1-2: Advisor selection
- Quarter 6-7: Selection of committee and defense of thesis

**Fall** | **Winter** | **Spring** | **Summer**
---|---|---|---
**Year 1** | Choose advisor | Begin research | Continue research | Continue research
| | Begin coursework | Continue coursework | Complete coursework | |
| **Year 2** | Continue research | Continue research | Select committee | Defend thesis |

*Figure 2.* Timeline for completion of MS program. Primary activities in a quarter are: course-based (green) and laboratory-based (orange).

The rest of this document describes each milestone in detail, and Figures 1 and 2 give the approximate timeline for completion. Failing to meet any of these milestones may result in the student being placed on academic Probation. Academic probation will ultimately result in Exclusion from the program if not remedied.
SECTION 2b. RESEARCH ADVISOR SELECTION (Thesis MS)

OVERVIEW
The most important milestone of a thesis MS student’s first year is the selection of a research advisor. Prior to obtaining a research advisor, an entering graduate student can consult their academic advisor or the Assistant Chair of the department for course selection and registration assistance. Thereafter, the student’s thesis advisor is responsible for helping a student develop an academic plan, identify a research project, and develop a research plan. Your thesis advisor will play an important role in identifying your post-graduate career options.

To help students choose advisors wisely, the program organizes a series of presentations by core and courtesy faculty who have projects to offer that year. In some years, members of other programs may be invited to give presentations as well. All students considering a thesis are required to attend the presentations. A list of core, courtesy, and invited faculty will be provided each year. Core and courtesy faculty members are listed on the department website. Some projects may be part of a larger center, or structured as a co-advising relationship.

As students identify interesting research projects, it is their responsibility to meet with the professor (or professors), interact with the other students, attend group meetings, and otherwise get to know the lab. Students are encouraged to look broadly at all projects on offer. Being actively engaged in the process will help in finding a good home for the next two years, and ensure that students are known well by the professors and their lab when it comes time for advisor selection.

The incoming PhD students are also searching for advisors at this time, too. PhD students participate in a formal rotation program that is not required of the MS students. While every attempt will be made to get all students placed with their top choices, know that there are limitations of projects available, physical laboratory space, and training support that can prevent you from getting your number one choice of advisor or project. The program aims to finalize advisor assignments for PhD students by early December, and MS students and their research advisors often agree on placements shortly after that. The process may extend into the beginning of Winter quarter, but most students are beginning research by then.

NO COMMITMENT POLICY
It is the policy of the program that professors will not formally commit to supporting a student until final assignments are made by the DGS. Likewise, students are not committed to joining any given professor’s laboratory until final assignments are made. This policy is maintained regardless of any prior relationship between the professor and prospective advisee.

CO-ADVISING and WORKING with PROFESSORS OUTSIDE the PROGRAM
All core and courtesy members of the Department of Chemical Engineering may advise MS students without special arrangements. See the department website for a current roster. In contrast, unaffiliated faculty should generally not be considered during advisor selection, unless they have been specifically invited to participate in graduate student recruiting that year or such an interest has been brought up directly with the DGS.

Many students find co-advised projects to be of interest, and it is a strength at Northwestern. Most typically, a collaboration is already in place, but strong student interest in having a co-advisor can also lead to new collaborations. Co-advising between core and unaffiliated faculty members is also possible. When interested in co-advising, make sure that all parties are aware and supportive of the co-advising arrangement proposed.
FAILURE to FIND an ADVISOR
Advisor assignment is the first key milestone. If a student is unable to find an advisor, the student will default to the terminal coursework-based MS program. If, by the end of the third quarter of residence, the student has completed the necessary course requirements and maintained an adequate GPA, they will be awarded a coursework-based Master’s degree at that time.

CHANGING an ADVISOR
If a student finds they are not able to continue working with the advisor they are assigned, they are first encouraged to discuss possible changes in research direction with their advisor. They are then advised to talk with the DGS or the department chair as soon as possible to identify possible remedies, including a change of advisor or exiting the program.

SECTION 2c. CURRICULUM

COURSEWORK MS
Students pursuing a coursework MS are required to complete three (3) core courses in thermodynamics, kinetics, and transport, three (3) department electives, and four (4) technical electives of their choice from engineering, mathematics, or the physical sciences. Most students complete this within 3-4 quarters.

THESIS MS
The thesis MS students are required to complete three (3) core courses in thermodynamics, kinetics, and transport, one (1) department elective, three (3) technical electives of their choice from engineering, mathematics, or the physical sciences, and three (3) units of research. In addition, thesis MS students should register for Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training during their first year if they are on an NSF sponsored project. The coursework and research units are typically completed in the first three quarters. In the second year, when no courses or research units are remaining, a special TGS course (typically TGS 512) is designated.

Students are strongly recommended to attend departmental seminars. Seminars are one-hour presentations on state of the art research by faculty at Northwestern as well as researchers at other national and international universities and industries. Registration is not required.

All of these requirements have course numbers assigned with the registrar and completion will be monitored through the Graduate Student Tracking System (GSTS), which you must keep current. A guide to GSTS is found in the appendix and on the TGS website. All details of the curriculum are discussed in substantial detail in section 3.

SECTION 2d. PROGRAM COMPLETION

Degree candidates should consult their advisor and the Assistant Chair the quarter prior to the terminal quarter to make certain that all graduate school and departmental requirements have been satisfied. Satisfactory academic standing and residency requirements must be met in order to complete the degree. For the MS program, satisfactory academic standing is an overall GPA of at least 3.0 in required graduate courses. The program additionally requires that the average of the three required core courses (chosen from CHEM_ENG 404, 408, 421, and 422) be a B (3.0) or better. Paperwork includes the Application for Degree and Master’s Degree Completion forms that must be submitted and approved.
The following three sections apply only to a thesis MS.

**THESIS MS – CHOOSING THESIS COMMITTEE**

MS theses are evaluated by a group of faculty known as the thesis committee. The thesis committee must have at least three members. At least two committee members must have a core appointment in the Department. Note that it is possible to have committee members who are not part of the Northwestern University community, such as collaborators at other universities, national laboratories, or in industry.

Students should consult with their advisor(s) about who should serve on the committee. Committee members become more familiar with the student and the research than the typical faculty in the Department, and they may be able to provide useful scientific and career advice, or letters of recommendation. Once the student develops a list of potential committee members, they should secure their participation by email or in person, then fill out the relevant section in GSTS and the corresponding form in the Student Enterprise System (CAESAR). A guide to GSTS is found in the appendix and on the TGS website. The committee is usually selected during the student’s anticipated second-to-last quarter, which is typically the winter quarter of the second year.

**THESIS MS – THESIS**

A student’s thesis is the document detailing the work they have completed for their thesis. In a thesis, a student must demonstrate the relevance of their work to the greater scientific enterprise, place their work in the context of both its narrow and broader fields, and describe their results and demonstrate their technical validity. Finally, a student must detail the conclusions to be drawn from their results, and how those conclusions advance the field.

The exact structure of the thesis, including length, citation format, use of figures, etc., is strongly field-dependent. The student must find out what is accepted practice from their advisor and from prior students in their research group and in related groups.

**THESIS MS – DEFENSE**

The defense is the final presentation given to the thesis committee. Students should prepare a presentation that would last 30 minutes, if no questions were asked. Depending on the desires of the committee, they may either interrupt the student during the presentation, or reserve all questions for the end. The faculty will ask broad and specific questions related to the student’s research, and the student should typically schedule a two-hour block with the committee for the defense, unless otherwise directed by the Chair. During the thesis defense, questions may be asked about anything in the presentation, thesis, or entire body of work. The committee seeks to understand each student’s unique, substantive contribution to new scientific understanding.

At the conclusion of the defense, the committee will meet privately to evaluate and collectively decide whether to award the MS. It is important to remember that the decision is made collectively by the committee, and not solely by the advisor(s).

If the student wishes and the committee approves, the first portion of the thesis defense may be open to the public, including friends and family. Typically, most questions by the committee would then be reserved for a closed session immediately following the public presentation.

**TIMELINE**

All requirements, including a successful thesis defense, for the master’s degree must be met within five (5)
years of initial registration in a graduate program.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS
The Graduate School offers quarterly graduation for graduate students. Students working towards a Master’s degree may be awarded the degree in Fall, Winter, Spring, or Summer, assuming all work is completed before the published deadlines. It is very important that students abide by these deadlines, as they are set by TGS and cannot be moved. Deadlines for graduation and for participation in the ceremonies are posted on TGS’s main calendar.

At the conclusion of a student’s stay at Northwestern, they must fill out the exit survey, return all keys, and depending on circumstances, cancel Northwestern health insurance. Many research groups will have specific exit protocols that must be followed, including sample archiving and data management. Students are directed to consult their advisor and the Graduate Program Assistant to make sure that all exit requirements have been met.
SECTION 3. CURRICULUM
SECTION 3a. DISTRIBUTION of COURSES

Graduate students holding B.S. or B.E. degrees in chemical engineering must complete ten (10) courses according to the distribution below. Thesis MS students must complete responsible conduct of research training described in section b) below. Students entering with relevant, prior graduate coursework should see section c) below. Students entering with a B.S. or B.E. in another engineering or science discipline should see d) below.

All students must enter and update a course plan within GSTS so that the Assistant Chair or DGS can approve or further discuss course plans as needed.

In any given quarter, a student should take between 3 and 4 units of credit. Under normal circumstances, a student should plan to complete 9-10 units in their first three quarters.

All courses counted toward the MS degree will be graded (no P/N credits). A student will be placed on Probation at the close of any quarter if their overall grade average is below 3.0, and failure to improve may lead to Exclusion by The Graduate School. Refer to Section 5.

The MS program in Chemical and Biological Engineering requires (typical quarters offered):

Three courses in transport phenomena and chemical process principles (kinetics and thermodynamics). Choose from:

- CHEM ENG 421 Fluid Mechanics (Fall)
- CHEM ENG 422 Heat and Mass Transfer (Winter)
- CHEM ENG 404 Advanced Thermodynamics (Spring)
- CHEM ENG 408 Chemical Engineering Kinetics and Reactor Design (Fall)

Three of these courses must be completed with an average GPA of 3.0 or greater in order to receive a MS degree from the program. Students will be allowed to retake any of these courses a maximum of one (1) time each.

Electives within the department

For coursework MS students a total of three (3) electives within the chemical engineering department must be taken. A student wishing to pursue an independent study project within the department may register for CHEM ENG 499. A maximum of 2 units of 499 may be used for the degree.

For thesis MS students, a total of one (1) elective within the chemical engineering department must be taken.

These courses are among those listed as a TGS course with the registrar, and are not part of the required courses for the BS program in chemical engineering.

Other technical electives

For coursework MS students a total of four (4) other electives must be taken. For thesis MS students a total of three (3) elective must be taken. These courses can be within the department, in another engineering department, or in a math/science department, among those listed as a TGS course with the registrar.
Research credits
For thesis MS students a total of three research units must be completed. Students typically begin registering for research units in the Winter quarter of their first year, while simultaneously completing coursework. In addition, in all quarters, students must be registered for 3.0 to 4.0 units of credit, so courses and research units should sum to this amount each quarter. These research units should be graded CHEM ENG 499 (Independent Study) units. When registering for two research units in one quarter, CHEM ENG 499 offers variable unit registration so that more than one unit of independent study may be chosen. For example, a student may register for three courses and one unit of CHEM ENG 499 in the winter, and two courses and two units of CHEM ENG 499 in the spring.

For students who have completed the coursework requirements plus the three required research units, but are still working toward completing the thesis in year 2, students should register for TGS 512 (Continuous Registration) at reduced tuition to maintain full-time status. Courses cannot be taken while registered for TGS 512.

NOTES:
• Most 300-level courses that are required for BS degrees at Northwestern WILL NOT be accepted for credit toward a graduate degree. CHEM ENG 341, Process Dynamics and Control is the only exception, if this course does not duplicate a course taken for a previous degree.
• Electives must have significant technical content and be listed as a TGS course. If in doubt, the student should ask the Assistant Chair or DGS.
• The department website gives the courses offered and times for each year.
• Courses that received a P during Spring 2020 can be used as a letter grade for all graduation requirements.

SECTION 3b. OTHER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH
Thesis MS students whose research is sponsored by an NSF grant should enroll in GEN ENG 519 within their first three quarters. This is a zero-credit, S/U course that educates students about responsible conduct of research. The student must also complete an on-line course offered by CITI. The online course can and should be completed immediately, since it is a federal requirement for certain types of support. This course is not required for coursework MS students.

SEMINAR
The weekly departmental seminar is open to students in the MS program. MS students may attend as many seminars as they desire, but are NOT required to register for the course (CHEM ENG 510). Department seminars highlight important research in the field.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS
The department’s professional development course is open to MS students, but they do NOT have to enroll in CHEM ENG 520. The professional development course is typically offered in the Fall quarter. This course emphasizes professional development skills necessary to succeed as a graduate student. There are also sessions devoted to fellowship proposal writing and preparing presentations that are more relevant to the PhD students than MS students.
SECTION 3c. ENTERING with PRIOR GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Students entering with graduate coursework in chemical engineering or a similar discipline from another institution, but not an MS degree, may be allowed to waive a maximum of one course. This is at the discretion of the Chemical and Biological Engineering Department. Students must meet the total distribution and class requirements, and at least nine (9) of the ten (10) courses must be taken at Northwestern. The Assistant Chair or DGS must approve (and note on GSTS) the graduate course waived by the program.

No credit will be awarded by The Graduate School for work completed in a graduate program outside of TGS, such as the Master of Biotechnology Program. While the program may waive some courses if the student has completed a relevant graduate coursework elsewhere, all students must complete nine (9) graded units in TGS and maintain a B average (3.0 GPA).

SECTION 3d. ENTERING with NON-CHBE BS or BE.

To receive a MS in chemical engineering, students must demonstrate proficiency in key concepts that are typically found only in the undergraduate chemical engineering curriculum. This is accomplished through 1) completing an equivalent course at their home institution, 2) completing the specified course at Northwestern, or 3) passing (B or better) a comprehensive exam in that subject administered by the department.

All students must demonstrate mastery of the material found in CHEM_ENG 321 (typically Fall, Fluid Dynamics), CHEM_ENG 322 (typically Winter, Heat Transfer), and CHEM_ENG 307 (typically Spring, Reactor Engineering). Students entering without a degree or appropriate chemical engineering coursework from their prior institution will be required to take these courses or pass a comprehensive exam before the start of their equivalent graduate courses: CHEM_ENG 421 (typically Fall), CHEM_ENG 422 (typically Winter), or CHEM_ENG 408 (typically Fall). Students must notify the DGS before the start of the relevant quarter if they wish to take the comprehensive exam. It is highly recommended to discuss this early, as preparation materials and strategies can be suggested.

Depending on their prior preparation, it may also be advised that a student enroll in CHEM_ENG 211 (Fall or Winter, Thermodynamics) and/or CHEM_ENG 323 (Spring, Mass Transfer) as a prerequisite for graduate-level coursework. Students without a degree in chemical engineering may wish to audit CHEM_ENG 210 and/or 212 to gain familiarity with the material, but it is not required. Courses taken as prerequisites will be graded, but they will not contribute toward other graduate degree course requirements. An individual degree plan through GSTS, made in consultation with the DGS, is particularly important for these students.
SECTION 4. KEY PROGRAM POLICIES

SECTION 4a. CONTINUOUS REGISTRATION

The Graduate School maintains a policy of continuous registration, in which all MS students must be registered at Northwestern University during the full academic year (fall, winter, and spring) until all degree requirements have been completed, including dissertation submission (Thesis MS) to The Graduate School. Any alterations in the timeline are managed through Leave of Absence requests.

SECTION 4b. TRANSFER

The MS program in Chemical Engineering is structured as a terminal degree. MS students cannot apply as a new student for any Northwestern PhD program and cannot initiate a transfer request on their own. In rare circumstances, a faculty member can initiate a request for transfer to a PhD program on behalf of a current MS student. Faculty members are directed to speak with the DGS for further details.

SECTION 4c. LEAVES, COURSE ACCOMMODATIONS, and ASSISTANCE

For time away from the University longer than possible with reasonable vacation or sick time, a Leave is possible. The program follows TGS policy with respect to Personal, Medical, or Family Leave. 

www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academic-policies-procedures/leaves-withdrawal-readmission.html

Northwestern is committed to providing an accessible environment. Learn more about NU’s commitment to accessibility through the Office of Equity. In addition, the program will work with students and TGS to develop any reasonable course accommodations that may be needed. Please initiate any official requests for accommodations through ‘AccessibleNU’, a central clearinghouse.

www.northwestern.edu/accessiblenu/index.html

The Writing Place offers their services to students, including individual consultations, peer tutoring, and workshops which can be useful for students completing course assignments or their research dissertation.

www.writing.northwestern.edu/

SECTION 4d. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MS students are allowed opportunities for professional and academic growth, including those outside the program. These include:

- Kellogg offers a popular (and highly selective) program on Management for Scientists and Engineers, but also frequently offers courses to the wider NU community on their Facebook page, if space remains after the business students finish enrollment. *These courses do not count towards MS degree completion.
- Some students, with the support of their advisors, may find practical internships within industry. Internships that involve time off campus are collectively managed through the Crown Family Internship. These 3- to 6-month, full-time internships may be paid positions. These internship experiences do not contribute to residency requirements. International students should work with the International Office to complete required paperwork. See TGS documentation for official policies. Students MUST discuss an internship well in advance with their research advisor. Prior to the
SECTION 4e. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The program in Chemical and Biological Engineering follows the conflict of interest and conflict of commitment policies of the University. Students are directed to the University web pages for the Conflict of Interest Office and the Office for Research Integrity. While students are not generally required to make the conflict of interest statements that are required annually of faculty and staff, participation in research carries certain obligations. All students are recommended to be aware of TGS and University general policies, as they can become very important if a student is involved in developing intellectual property or a company while at Northwestern, and in the student’s future career. Two specific areas of attention are discussed below.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN FACULTY ENTERPRISES

There are numerous faculty that actively consult or have developed companies based on their research. There is a specific policy from the Conflict of Interest Office to which students should refer if they are asked to engage in research related to a faculty member’s company, if it is outside the scope of a sponsored research agreement. Specifically, students cannot be coerced, and the work should promote educational and professional growth without preventing satisfactory academic progress.

EFFORT COMMITMENT

A student may end up working with an advisor whose research project falls under the umbrella of ‘sponsored research’. Sponsored research can include federal or state government support, support from private foundations, or support from companies. Should a student receive support derived from a research assistantship, a student is obligated to a commitment of effort, typically 100%, except in very special cases. This 100% effort commitment requires that any outside scientific, professional, or business activities involving more than a trivial amount of time must be closely aligned with their research or educational development. Any activity that interferes with this 100% obligation is a conflict of commitment.

Potential conflicts of commitment include any paid employment, engaging in startup activities (even if unpaid) unrelated to your research or a class, self-employment, or work as an independent contractor. The latter classes of conflict could include activities like managing a high volume Etsy account or extensive driving for Uber. TGS requires the Graduate Student Permission to Work Request Form when external activities exceed particular thresholds of time or compensation (see TGS guidelines for more details).

Regardless of thresholds, students MUST discuss ALL potential conflicts of commitment with their research advisor. True conflicts of commitment must be approved by the department chair and the university Conflict of Interest Office. Effort commitments are certified by Principal Investigators on research grants (i.e. your research advisor) and by several offices within Northwestern. An unreported conflict of commitment is therefore a form of falsification of research effort and can result in the cancellation of grants, federal audits of the entire Northwestern community, or even criminal prosecution. Conflicts of commitment can also invalidate intellectual property generated at Northwestern or the other entity. Penalties for a student violating effort commitment policies are the same as any other conduct violation, as discussed in Section 5c below.

Note that nothing in this section is to be construed as restricting a student’s ability to engage in recreational, community service, or other forms of leisure activity outside of the student’s academic and research time commitments.
SECTION 5. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
SECTION 5a. STANDING and PROBATION

A student whose overall grade average is below B (3.0 GPA) or who has more than three incomplete grades will be placed on probation by The Graduate School and will not be in good academic standing. A student that fails to maintain ‘satisfactory academic progress’ in their program will be placed on probation and will not be in good academic standing. To be in good academic standing in The Graduate School, the student must meet both the standards set by the Chemical Engineering MS degree program and those set by The Graduate School. Moreover, a student must make satisfactory progress toward fulfilling all requirements for the degree (see Section 2). Failure to make satisfactory academic progress may be a result of (but is not limited to): unsatisfactory performance in classes, unsatisfactory research progress, or failure to meet other program requirements. A student’s failure to make satisfactory progress must be reported by the student’s program to the student, as well as to The Graduate School. Students are referred online for The Graduate School’s official policies on satisfactory academic progress.

SECTION 5b. EXCLUSION

EXCLUSION
Exclusion is defined by The Graduate School. A student who fails to resume good academic standing after at most two quarters after the quarter of being notified of their placement on probation by either The Graduate School or the program will be excluded from The Graduate School.

A student can also be excluded by a program without first being put on probation, but only in cases that have been stated clearly by the program (such as in Section 2) and disseminated to the student effectively. Prior to exclusion, a student is given reasonable opportunity to remediate the deficiency. Exclusion always requires approval from both the Director of Graduate Studies and the Chair of the department.

NOTIFICATION OF EXCLUSION
When a decision to Exclude is made, both the student and TGS must be informed in writing within three business days of the decision being made. The notification must include the effective date of the exclusion, a clear statement of the reason(s) for exclusion and any relevant documentation.

APPEALS PROCESS
Students wishing to appeal a program’s decision to exclude must first appeal directly to the program. The program must inform both the student and TGS of the outcome of the student’s appeal(s) in writing. A student may appeal program decisions to TGS. Appeals will only be considered by TGS on the basis of procedural errors or failure to comply with established program or TGS policy. The Graduate School will not consider appeals based on academic decisions.

Appeals to TGS must be made in writing within ten days of the program’s final written determination of exclusion and include any supporting materials at that time. The Dean of The Graduate School will determine if an appeal should be administered within TGS, UHAS (University Hearing and Appeals System), or other sanctioning body within the University. The Dean may request additional information from, or a meeting with, the student and/or program before making a final decision. The Dean’s decision will be made in a timely manner, and will be communicated in writing to the student and program. This decision is final and cannot be further appealed.
SECTION 5c. IMPROPER CONDUCT and REPORTING

Cases of improper academic and/or research conduct, and inappropriate or unprofessional behavior are considered outside the boundaries of ‘satisfactory academic progress.’ These cases are covered separately under TGS’s Academic Integrity policy, as well as the published policies of the Office for Research Integrity, the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access, and the Student Handbook. These cases are addressed according to the University’s existing disciplinary procedures, and may result in a range of sanctions up to and including Exclusion from the University.

The program in Chemical and Biological Engineering takes laboratory safety very seriously. Repeated and/or willful violations of safe laboratory practices can be grounds for probation or Exclusion and can be reported as a violation of the University Code of Conduct.

EQUITY, DISCRIMINATION, AND HARASSMENT

All members of the Northwestern community – faculty, staff, students, and contracted vendors – share a collective responsibility for creating a harassment-free environment. To this end, the program encourages all students to familiarize themselves with Northwestern’s policies for access and accommodations and against discrimination, harassment, and sexual harassment and the resources available on campus dedicated to the prevention, investigation, and resolution of claims of discrimination and harassment. Northwestern’s Office of Equity is the place to find support and report a concern.

https://www.northwestern.edu/risk/compliance/compliance-areas-contacts/equity-discrimination-harassment-sexual-misconduct/

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship or veteran status in matters of admissions, employment, housing or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates.

Harassment, whether verbal, physical or visual, that is based on any of these characteristics, is a form of discrimination. This includes harassing conduct affecting tangible job benefits, interfering unreasonably with an individual's academic or work performance, or creating what a reasonable person would sense is an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment. Northwestern encourages anyone in its community who has been the target of, or who witnesses, sexual misconduct, discrimination, or harassment based on a protected category to report the incident to the Office of Equity so that those impacted can be provided with information on available resources and options.

Report sexual misconduct
Report discrimination or harassment

While Northwestern University is committed to the principles of free inquiry and free expression, discrimination and harassment identified in this policy are neither legally protected expression nor the proper exercise of academic freedom. Examples of discrimination and harassment may include:

- refusing to hire or promote someone because of the person's protected status
- demoting or terminating someone because of the person's protected status
- jokes or epithets about another person's protected status
- teasing or practical jokes directed at a person based on their protected status
the display or circulation of written materials or pictures that degrade a person or group
verbal abuse or insults about, directed at, or made in the presence of an individual or group of individuals in a protected group.

McCormick and TGS have several on-site Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Advisers. See the Office of Equity’s site for Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention for current listings and contact information.

CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELORS
If a student wishes to speak with someone who is legally privileged to keep communications confidential, they may contact a confidential counselor. After consulting with a confidential counselor, the student is within their discretion to take no further action. Because of the confidential nature of the counselor/patient relationship, seeking advice from a confidential counselor does not constitute reporting an incident.

EthicsPoint HOTLINE
Northwestern has selected EthicsPoint to provide the community with a simple way to report activities that may involve misconduct or violations of University policy. Anyone may file a report online or by calling 866-294-3545. This service is not a substitute for, nor does it supersede, any existing reporting methods or protocols already in place at Northwestern for reporting suspected problems or complaints. Instead, the EthicsPoint system provides an additional means of reporting such issues. Individuals who report concerns of sexual harassment via the EthicsPoint online option are encouraged to check the status of their report periodically, in order to receive updates as to the status of the investigation. Any suspected problems or complaints reported via EthicsPoint will be reviewed in accordance with relevant University policies and/or procedures and other requirements stated in the relevant Handbooks.