The Ph.D. in Chemistry is offered jointly with the University of California at San Diego (UCSD) Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Applicants to the Joint Doctoral Program (JDP) must first be enrolled in the Master’s program here at SDSU. During your first year you and your research advisor will decide if you are ready to apply to the JDP.

HOW TO APPLY
Students can pick up the application check-list and forms from the department office (GMCS 209) beginning in February. The deadline for submission of all material is the first Friday in May.

REQUIREMENTS
- Classified graduate standing or be eligible for classified graduate standing by the end of the term in which you are applying. You must have passed the orientation/qualifier exams or approved coursework in 3 out of 5 topic areas to be eligible for classified graduate standing (a minimum grade of B is required for coursework).
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 (at graduate level). GPAs near or above 3.5 are preferred. This is especially important if your undergraduate GPA is less than 3.0.
- GRE general examination (score should be at the 50th percentile or higher).
- GRE subject examination in either Chemistry or Biochemistry (scores at the 50th percentile or higher are preferred). These exams are given in November, December and April, and require advance registration. See the ETS web page at http://www.gre.org for more details. Scores must be received by mid-May at the latest.
- If English is a second language and undergraduate degree was not earned at an English-speaking institution, applicant must submit scores from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELST). A minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper version), 220 (computer version) or 80 (internet version), or minimum IELTS score of 6.5 is required (TOEFL score above 600 on the paper version or 250 on the computer version is preferred). The exam must have been taken within the past 2 years.
- Three current recommendations acknowledging the applicant’s academic and research capabilities. Your research advisor must write one of the letters and the remaining two should preferably come from SDSU or UCSD faculty who can evaluate your academic and research abilities. It is suggested that these letters be based on their observations within the past 5 years.
- Research experience. During your first year here it is important that you establish your research program, which will be the basis for your statement of purpose and your research advisor’s letter of recommendation.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
All doctoral students are supported with either teaching or research assistantships. Your stipend will be paid by SDSU and will effectively remain a half-time TA appointment, even while attending UCSD.

Applications will first be reviewed by our Graduate Committee in May, after grades have been submitted for the Spring semester. The SDSU Graduate Committee will forward recommended JDP applications to the faculty of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UCSD, who will then do their own review. Should the UCSD faculty recommend you for the program your application will be sent to the UCSD Graduate Admissions office, which will
then make the final decision. Students who are recommended by SDSU are usually, but not always, accepted by UCSD. We will inform you of the SDSU and UCSD Graduate Committee recommendations before that time.

Students in the UCSD-SDSU Joint Doctoral Program are admitted into the graduate programs of both institutions, and spend one year in full-time residence at UCSD, during which they take courses and serve as teaching assistants for one quarter. The remainder of the coursework and research for the Ph.D. degree are carried out under the direction of a faculty member at SDSU. Students in the JDP are required to pass a qualifying examination in order to advance to candidacy for their degree. Candidates must then complete a dissertation based on their research, which must be successfully defended to a joint committee consisting of faculty members from both UCSD and SDSU.

For additional information, please visit our department web site at http://www.chemistry.sdsu.edu/graduate and the UCSD JDP web site at http://www-chem.ucsd.edu/Academic/Grad/JDP/jdp.overview.html or contact us at cheminfo@sciences.sdsu.edu.