Excerpt from **SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVANCED DEGREES IN CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**

### III. Cumulative Examinations

The cumulative examinations for all Ph.D. and M.A. students in this department will be given eight times per year in the months of September, October, November, December, February, March, April, and May. Each division will determine the format of its cumulative examinations. To fulfill the cumulative examination requirements, a student must accumulate ten points on eight consecutive examinations. A student may take cumulative exams in any area but must accumulate at least six points in exams offered by his/her division. Grading will be on a scale of 3.0, 2.5, 2.0, 1.5, 1.0, 0.5, and 0 for each examination. In no case will the student be allowed to take more than eight examinations (with the exception listed in the second paragraph). The division that is responsible for a student may recommend to the Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC) that they excuse, for cause, a student from completing a series of examinations after the nth exam in the sequence. The excused period is for a specified time. However, when a student resumes taking the examinations again, he/she will only be allowed to take 8-n exams in order to accumulate the balance of his/her points. Unexcused absences will be counted as scores of zero. Students entering with a Bachelor's degree should complete the cumulative requirement during their third and fourth semesters of full-time study. Part-time students are expected to start taking examinations after the equivalent of two full-time semesters. An entering graduate student who holds a master's degree, or a student completing an M.S. (Chemistry and Biochemistry) degree at the University of Delaware, will be expected to begin taking the cumulative exams immediately. However, those graduate students who, for some valid reason (e.g., excessive number of undergraduate courses taken during the first year, illness, change of major, etc.), wish to delay the start of their examinations must obtain written permission to this effect from the GCC.

Students who fail to achieve a total of ten points in eight consecutive cumulative examinations may start the series over again after completing the requirements for an M.S. degree and obtaining the approval of the GCC.

A schedule of examinations will be posted at the beginning of the academic year. A student may take an examination outside his/her division consistent with the required point distribution described above. However, the student must inform the secretary of the appropriate division and Susan Cheadle of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry of his/her interest in taking such an examination at least two weeks prior to the date of the examination. The exams will normally be designed for two hours, but three hours will be allowed. In some cases, take home examinations are given. Each division prepares and grades its own cumulative examinations.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO SUSAN CHEADLE, 102 BRL or send to scheadle@udel.edu.