Your First Year

Orientation and Diagnostic exams:
Results of exam are only used to recommend first year courses.

Courses
6 courses (18 credit hours) must be completed over the first two years at the graduate level. This includes 3 to 4 classes and one sequence in focused areas of study: analytical, inorganic, organic, physical, and polymer.
Chemistry seminar (501), special topics courses (600 level), and research courses (500 and 600) are also included.

Teaching and Tutoring
The first semester usually involves being a graduate teaching assistant (GTA). Some of a GTA's duties include helping teach lab courses, overseeing discussion sections, and grading exams.

Choosing an Advisor
Active research professors give research presentations to first-year students. Students meet with faculty of interest and pick top choices. (Completed during first semester)

Your Second Year and Beyond

Select Committee
This will consist of four faculty members: research adviser, in-division member, Out-of-division member, and an out-of-department member.

Candidacy Exam
(October-April of second year)
Write a proposal and orally defend it in the presence of a chosen committee. Research proposal in 8-12 pages long and in a chosen funding agency format (i.e. NSF, NIH, etc.) The oral exam is a 20-25 minute presentation with approximately 1.5 hours of questions from the committee. Students can either pass, need further development, or fail. Passing will obtain PhD candidacy, and failing will move student to MS track.
During the third year, student will participate in the Department Research Seminar.

Original Research Proposal (Fourth Year)
Students submit and orally defend an original research proposal (ORP). Passing the ORP is a dissertation requirement and must be completed at least six months before dissertation defense.

Research and Dissertation
Research typically begins when student joins a group in the first year.

Stipend and Financial Information

Stipend
One of the highest compensation packages in the Southeast starting over $26,000 per year.

Health Insurance
Health insurance is included and paid for. Dental and vision are extra.

Housing and Transit

Housing
The University of Tennessee owns several apartment complexes for graduate students: housing.utk.edu
There are also many other choices in Knoxville often within walking distance of campus: offcampushousing.utk.edu

Parking
The nearest parking garage is adjacent to the Chemistry Department. Parking passes may be purchased online: parking.utk.edu