RYAN’S RULES  
For  
Serving as a Research Advisor

1. I am an Analytical Environmental Chemist, therefore I am primarily suited to advise and direct research in the areas of Analytical or Environmental Chemistry.

2. If I agree to direct a student’s dissertation or thesis work, then I will outline a project that fits within my general area of interest. I am generally not open to exploring radically new topics proposed by students.

3. Students conducting dissertation or thesis research with me are expected to spend some minimum amount of time working toward their stated goal of obtaining an advanced degree. A full-time student should be spending a minimum of 40 hours per week conducting research, studying, reading journal articles, etc. Additional time spent will almost always result in greater rewards.

4. A weekly research meeting will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time to briefly discuss research direction, specific plans, problems, needs, etc. It is an absolute requirement that I hear from you every week about what you are doing. Open and frequent communication is encouraged both in person and by email.

5. Any presentations (including poster presentations) or manuscripts to be submitted for publication must be given to me for review at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled date for the presentation (or date of submission).

6. A written Progress Report or Quarterly Report must be submitted every 3 months. This might be a brief description of academic requirements that were completed during that time period, but might include detailed experimental procedures and results. Proper format, acceptable English grammar and good presentation are required. In other words it should look good and read well. (see also RYANS RULES for Technical Writing)

7. RYAN’S RULES for Serving on a Student’s Dissertation or Thesis Committee also apply and should be reviewed and strictly adhered to.

David K. Ryan, Ph.D.  
Professor of Chemistry

I have read and understand these rules and intend to abide by them with respect to my dissertation or thesis research experience.

_____________________________  _____________________________  __________  
Student Signature          Print Name        Date