BIOCHEMISTRY, BS

for the degree of Bachelor of Science Major in Biochemistry (Specialized Curriculum)

Undergraduate degree programs in Molecular & Cellular Biology
Biochemistry, BS (p. 1)

Molecular & Cellular Biology, BSLAS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/molecular-cellular-biology-bslas/)

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The typical program of courses required to satisfy this degree totals 126-131 hours as outlined below including up to 12 hours of non-primary language (if not completed in high school); in no case will a program totaling less than 120 hours qualify for graduation. In addition, in order to graduate there is a minimum 2.0 cumulative academic grade point average and student must attain a 2.5 academic grade point average in the chemistry, biochemistry, biology, mathematics, physics and advanced electives in science/engineering courses specified in this curriculum. All proposals for course substitutions must be approved by the academic advisor. This curriculum is intended for those students who desire a rigorous education in chemistry, biochemistry, and biology, who have definite research-oriented goals, and whose career objectives include graduate school, MD/PhD programs, or industry.

Students earning the Biochemistry degree automatically complete the Chemistry minor. Students earning a degree in the Specialized Curriculum in Biochemistry may not earn a second degree in the Science and Letters Curriculum in Molecular and Cellular Biology.

Departmental distinction: A student seeking distinction must satisfy the following:
• Complete a minimum of 6 credit hours of undergraduate research (BIOC 290 and BIOC 492) with a minimum of 4 credit hours of BIOC 492.
• Earn at least a 3.25 grade-point average.
• Present a senior thesis to the department.

General education: Students must complete the Campus General Education (https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/) requirements including the campus general education language requirement.
Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.

| Code       | Title                                           | Hours |
|------------|=================================================|-------|
| Select one of the following:                                    |       |
| CHEM 202   | Accelerated Chemistry I                        | 8-10  |
| & CHEM 203 | and Accelerated Chemistry Lab I                |       |
| & CHEM 204 | and Accelerated Chemistry II                   |       |
| & CHEM 205 | and Accelerated Chemistry Lab II (preferred sequence) | |
| CHEM 102   | General Chemistry I                            |       |
| & CHEM 103 | and General Chemistry Lab I                    |       |
| & CHEM 104 | and General Chemistry II                       |       |
| & CHEM 105 | and General Chemistry Lab II (with advisor approval) | |
| Organic chemistry, select from:                                | 9-10  |
| CHEM 236   | Fundamental Organic Chem I                     |       |
| & CHEM 237 | and Structure and Synthesis                    |       |
| & CHEM 436 | and Fundamental Organic Chem II (preferred sequence) | |
| CHEM 232   | Elementary Organic Chemistry I                 |       |
| & CHEM 233 | and Elementary Organic Chem Lab I              |       |
| & CHEM 332 | and Elementary Organic Chem II (with advisor approval) | |
| Molecular and Cellular Biology                                  | 17    |
| MCB 150    | Molec & Cellular Basis of Life                 |       |
| MCB 250    | Molecular Genetics                             |       |
| MCB 251    | Exp Techniqs in Molecular Biol                 |       |
| MCB 252    | Cells, Tissues & Development                   |       |
| MCB 253    | Exp Techniqs in Cellular Biol                  |       |
| MCB 354    | Biochem & Phys Basis of Life                   |       |
| or equivalent as approved by academic advisor                  |       |
| Physical chemistry, select one group of courses:               | 7-8   |

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CHEM 440  Physical Chemistry Principles (Biological Perspective Section)

BIOC 446  Physical Biochemistry (preferred sequence)

or

CHEM 442  Physical Chemistry I

CHEM 444  Physical Chemistry II (with advisor approval)

Mathematics & Statistics  14-15

STAT 212  Biostatistics

MATH 220  Calculus

or  MATH 221  Calculus I

MATH 231  Calculus II

MATH 241  Calculus III

Physics, select from:  10

PHYS 211 & PHYS 212 & PHYS 213  University Physics: Mechanics and University Physics: Elec & Mag and Univ Physics: Thermal Physics (preferred sequence)

or

PHYS 101 & PHYS 102  College Physics: Mech & Heat and College Physics: E&M & Modern (or equivalent as approved by academic advisor (with advisor approval)

Biochemistry:  13

BIOC 455  Technqs Biochem & Biotech

BIOC 460  Biochemistry Senior Seminar

BIOC 406  Gene Expression & Regulation

BIOP 401  Introduction to Biophysics

Select 10 hours of Advanced Science/Technical Electives (may include up to 7 hours of BIOC 492, Senior Thesis) from approved list.  10

Nontechnical Requirements:  variable

General education:

Foreign language - three semesters of college study (or three years of high school study) in a single foreign language to satisfy the campus foreign language requirement

Composition I writing requirement to satisfy the campus Composition I requirement

Advanced Composition writing requirement (BIOC 460 is required)

Humanities/Arts to satisfy the campus general education requirements

Social/Behavioral sciences to satisfy the campus general education requirements

Cultural Studies to satisfy the campus general education requirement

Electives (not including any credit in satisfaction of the above requirements)  variable

1  Transfer credit must be approved by an advisor in biochemistry in order to be used to satisfy degree requirements.

2  A more detailed description of the requirements is listed in the Biochemistry Curriculum Handbook, available in room 419A of Roger Adams Laboratory.

3  PHYS 213 is not required if CHEM 442/CHEM 444 sequence is taken.

4  Freshman orientation course is under development and will be required. See advisor for details.

5  An approved list of current courses will be updated annually in January/February for the coming year. Contact advisor.

6  The requirements for the Campus General Education categories of Natural Sciences and Technology and Quantitative Reasoning I are fulfilled through coursework in the curriculum.

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Upon successful completion of the Biochemistry Specialized Curriculum, students will be able to:

1. Understand and appreciate that the diversity of life evolved over time by biomolecular processes of mutation, selection, genetic change, and epigenetics.

2. Explain that molecular and macromolecular structure as well as supramolecular architecture determine function and regulation.

3. Explain that information storage and flow are molecular-based, dynamic, and interactive.

4. Understand and appreciate that biochemical mechanisms and kinetics ensure relative cellular stability and function under external or internal changing condition.

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5. Explain that energy is required by and transformed in biochemical systems as governed by the laws of thermodynamics.
6. Illustrate that living organisms and biological systems interact via molecular connections.
7. Design a scientific process and employ the scientific method, demonstrating that biochemistry is evidence-based and grounded in the formal practices of observation, objective measurement, and hypothesis testing.
8. Execute quantitative analysis and mathematical reasoning to interpret biochemical data.
9. Construct and utilize predictive models and simulations that define chemical relationships, as well as molecular interactions of complex systems.
10. Apply concepts from other sciences that span biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, computation, and engineering to interpret biochemical phenomena.
11. Communicate biochemical concepts and understanding to members of a diverse scientific community, as well as to the general public.
12. Identify social and health-related dimensions of biochemical investigations.

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department website: http://mcb.illinois.edu/departments/biochemistry

department faculty: Biochemistry Faculty

overview of college admissions & requirements: Liberal Arts & Sciences

college website: https://las.illinois.edu/

e-mail: biocug@mcb.uiuc.edu

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