

BIOCHEMISTRY, BS

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

Undergraduate degree programs in Molecular & Cellular Biology

- Biochemistry, BS (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/biochemistry-bs/#degreerequirementtext>)
- 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:		8-10
CHEM 202 & CHEM 203 & CHEM 204 & CHEM 205	Accelerated Chemistry I and Accelerated Chemistry Lab I and Accelerated Chemistry II and Accelerated Chemistry Lab II (preferred sequence)	
CHEM 102 & CHEM 103 & CHEM 104 & CHEM 105	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry Lab I and General Chemistry II and General Chemistry Lab II (with advisor approval)	
Organic chemistry, select from:		9-10
CHEM 236 & CHEM 237 & CHEM 436	Fundamental Organic Chem I and Structure and Synthesis and Fundamental Organic Chem II (preferred sequence)	
CHEM 232 & CHEM 233 & CHEM 332	Elementary Organic Chemistry I and Elementary Organic Chem Lab I and Elementary Organic Chem II (with advisor approval)	
Molecular and Cellular Biology		17
MCB 150	Molecular & 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
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: ³		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. ⁴		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. ⁵		10
Nontechnical Requirements: ⁶		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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Sample Sequence

This sample sequence is intended to be used only as a guide for degree
completion. All students should work individually with their academic
advisors to decide the actual course selection and sequence that works
best for them based on their academic preparation and goals. Enrichment
programming such as study abroad, minors, internships, and so on may
impact the structure of this four-year plan. Course availability is not
guaranteed during the semester indicated in the sample sequence.

Students must fulfill their Language Other Than English requirement by
successfully completing a third level of a language other than English.
See the corresponding section on the Degree and General Education
Requirements page (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

First Year

First Semester	Hours	Second Semester	Hours
Free elective course		1 CHEM 104 or 204	3
BIOC 190		1 CHEM 105 or 205	1
MCB 150		4 MATH 220	5
CHEM 102 or 202		3 Composition I or General Education course	4
CHEM 103 or 203		1 Language other than English (3rd level) course	3
Composition I or General Education course	4		
	14		16

Second Year

First Semester	Hours	Second Semester	Hours
MCB 250		3 MCB 252	3
MCB 251		2 MCB 253	2
CHEM 232 or 236		4 CHEM 332 or 436	4
CHEM 233 or 237		2 MATH 241	4
MATH 231		3 PHYS 101 or 211	5
General Education course (choose a Humanities or Social/Behavioral Science course with Cultural Studies designation)	3		
	17		18

Third Year

First Semester	Hours	Second Semester	Hours
MCB 354		3 BIOC 406	3
PHYS 102 or 212		5 BIOC 455	4
STAT 212		3 PHYS 213 (or Advanced Technical Elective course)	2
General Education course (choose a Humanities or Social/Behavioral Science course with Cultural Studies designation)	3	3 Free Elective course	3

	General Education course (choose a Humanities or Social/Behavioral Science course with Cultural Studies designation)	3
	14	15

Fourth Year

First Semester	Hours	Second Semester	Hours
BIOC 460	3	BIOC 446 or CHEM 444	3
BIOP 401	3	Advanced Technical Elective course	3
CHEM 440 or 442	4	Advanced Technical Elective course or Free Elective Course	3
Free elective course	3	BIOC 492	4
	13		13

Total Hours 120

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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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Biochemistry Department website (<http://mcb.illinois.edu/departments/biochemistry/>)
 Biochemistry faculty (<https://mcb.illinois.edu/departments/biochemistry/directory/faculty/>)
 Biochemistry email (biocug@mcb.uiuc.edu)
 Overview of LAS Admissions & Requirements (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/schools/las/academic-units/>)
 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences website (<https://las.illinois.edu/>)

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.
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.