

MOLECULAR & CELLULAR BIOLOGY: HONORS, BSLAS

for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences Major in Molecular & Cellular Biology, Honors Concentration

school website: <https://mcb.illinois.edu/undergrad/>
school faculty: **School Faculty** (<https://mcb.illinois.edu/people/>)
overview of college admissions & requirements: **Liberal Arts & Sciences** (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/schools/las/academic-units/>)
college website: <https://las.illinois.edu/>
email: undergrad@mcb.illinois.edu

The Molecular and Cellular Biology Honors Concentration is designed for students whose preparation and interests motivate them to desire a more intensive undergraduate biology experience and to prepare for graduate or professional school. The MCB Honors Concentration is based on the MCB concentration (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/academic-units/molecular-cell-bio/molecular-cellular-biology-concentration>). Students must satisfy all of the requirements for the MCB concentration in addition to the requirements for the MCB Honors Concentration. Students interested in the MCB Honors Concentration (<http://mcb.illinois.edu/undergrad/honors>) should contact the MCB Honors Concentration coordinator (shawna@illinois.edu) during the freshman year for more information.

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Certain advanced courses may be taken prior to completion of the MCB 250 MCB 250-MCB 253, MCB 354 MCB 354 sequence with permission of an academic advisor. A minimum of 15 hours of 300- or 400-level courses in MCB from the approved list is required.

In addition, undergraduate research (MCB 290, or departmental equivalent) is strongly recommended for students planning to go to graduate school. No more than 10 hours of MCB 290, or departmental equivalent credit may be counted towards the 120 hours required for a degree in MCB.

Students earning a degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology may not also earn a second degree in the Specialized Curriculum in Biochemistry.

Students earning a degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology may not double major in Integrative Biology.

Distinction

Students in MCB can qualify for Distinction via one of the following:

Distinction for Excellence in Research:

To be eligible for graduation with Distinction a student must:

Complete 3 semesters of MCB 290 for 2 credit hours or more each semester. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 at the end of penultimate semester. Give at least one poster presentation at the Undergraduate Research symposium or other approved venue. Obtain a letter of support from their Principal Investigator.

To be eligible for graduation with High Distinction a student must:

Complete 2 semesters of MCB 290 for 2 credit hours or more each semester. Complete 1 semester of MCB 492 for 3 credit hours or more. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 at the end of penultimate semester. Give at least one poster presentation at the Undergraduate Research symposium or other approved venue. Obtain a letter of support from their Principal Investigator. Submit a written thesis that is approved by the Distinction Committee.

To be eligible for graduation with Highest Distinction a student must:

Complete 2 semesters of MCB 290 for 2 credit hours or more each semester. Complete 1 semester MCB 492 for 3 credit hours or more. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.90 at the end of penultimate semester. Give at least one poster presentation at the Undergraduate Research symposium or other approved venue. Obtain a letter of support from their Principal Investigator. Submit a written thesis that is approved by the Distinction Committee. Distinction for Excellence in Academics:

To be eligible for graduation with Academic Distinction a student must:

Maintain a major GPA of 3.90 or higher in the MCB major (biology, chemistry, physics and math courses for the MCB major) at the end of their penultimate semester.

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 required major and supporting course work: 67-71 hours, including 21 hours of 300- or 400-level courses; 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus. Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.

Code	Title	Hours
MATH 220 or MATH 221	Calculus Calculus I	4-5
MATH 231 or STAT 212	Calculus II Biostatistics	3
Select one group of courses:		8-10
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	
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	
CHEM 232	Elementary Organic Chemistry I	4
CHEM 233	Elementary Organic Chem Lab I	2
Select one group of courses:		10-12
PHYS 101 & PHYS 102	College Physics: Mech & Heat and College Physics: E&M & Modern	
PHYS 211 & PHYS 212 & PHYS 213 & PHYS 214	University Physics: Mechanics and University Physics: Elec & Mag and Univ Physics: Thermal Physics and Univ Physics: Quantum Physics	
IB 150	Organismal & Evolutionary Biol	4
MCB 150	Molec & Cellular Basis of Life	4
MCB 250	Molecular Genetics	3
MCB 251	Exp Techniqs in Molecular Biol	2
MCB 252	Cells, Tissues & Development	3

MCB 253	Exp Techniqs in Cellular Biol	2
MCB 354	Biochem & Phys Basis of Life	3
At least four additional courses at the 300- to 400-level from the Approved List of Advanced Courses for MCB Majors are also required, including one lab course. (http://mcb.illinois.edu/undergrad/courses/advanced)		15-16

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 5 honors discussion sections in consecutive order:		
MCB 297	MCB Honors Discussion (Section A)	1
MCB 297	MCB Honors Discussion (Section B)	1
MCB 297	MCB Honors Discussion (Section C)	1
MCB 298	MCB Honors Lab Discussion (Section A)	1
MCB 298	MCB Honors Lab Discussion (Section B)	1

Complete 4 or more additional MCB Honors Option courses¹

¹ *Students must consult the Honors Coordinator about MCB Honors Option courses. Only MCB 290 may be repeated, to a maximum of twice, although continuing 290 beyond two semesters is encouraged.*