

BIOCHEMISTRY, MS/LAW, JD

Degree: Master of Science (MS)

Field of Study: Biochemistry

Biochemistry (MS) Program Information

Degree: Juris Doctor (JD)

Juris Doctor (JD) Program Information

Program Overview

This program allows students in the School of Law to earn an MS degree in Biochemistry with one additional year of study. This program is useful for students with an interest in intellectual property law who are planning careers in biotechnology or the pharmaceutical industry. Students learn about intellectual property law in their JD studies and about the latest developments in the biomedical sciences in their Biochemistry studies, which allows them to work with clients who are scientists. Students receive advising and mentoring from faculty in the Law School and the Biochemistry Department as they study both subjects. Students who are interested in getting hands-on research experience may work with on a laboratory research project with a faculty member in the School of Medicine.

Admission

Students usually enter the program after entering the JD program and deciding that their interest lies in the area of biomedical intellectual property, but students may apply earlier. Students in the JD program can apply in the first or second year.

Program Requirements

Students in the School of Law can apply to the Biochemistry program for admission to the JD/MS program. In the dual degree program, students complete 12 fewer hours of law school coursework than they would if they were in the JD program alone. The Department of Biochemistry accepts 9 credit hours of law school classwork in courses dealing with science issues, in place of 9 credit hours of other elective work. Thus, the student will take a total of 27 credit hours of Biochemistry coursework of which at least 12 credit hours must be letter graded.

Dual degree students are advised about the JD degree by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the School of Law. Dual degree students are advised about the MS in Biochemistry by the program's Graduate Advisor.

Sample Plan of Study

Because most students apply for the JD/MS in Biochemistry Program after beginning law school, the sample schedule below begins with Biochemistry coursework in the third year. However, Biochemistry coursework can be taken in any of the last three years and with a variety of combinations of law courses. Schedules will be worked out with the Biochemistry Graduate Advisor to suit the student's needs and interests.

Coursework Oriented (Biochemistry, MS)

Totals: 27 credit hours graded coursework, including 1 hour EXAM 600

First Year		Hours
Summer		
Department of Biochemistry accepts 9 hours of law school classwork in courses dealing with science issues to be counted towards Biochemistry, MS		9
Hours		9
Fall		
BIOC 407	Introduction to Biochemistry: From Molecules To Medical Science	4
BIOC Elective		3
Hours		7
Spring		
BIOC 408	Molecular Biology	4
BIOC Elective		3
Hours		7
Second Year		
Fall		
BIOC 412	Proteins and Enzymes	3
BIOC Elective		3
Hours		6
Spring		
BIOC 434	Structural and Computational Biology	3
BIOC Elective		3
EXAM 600	Master's Comprehensive Exam	1
Hours		7
Total Hours		36

Research Oriented

Totals: 17 credit hours graded coursework, 10 credit hour research (BIOC 601), 1 hour EXAM 600

It is also possible to take some coursework or do research during the summer. However, most students use this time for legal internships.