

# BIOCHEMISTRY, MS/LAW, JD

**Degree:** Master of Science (MS)

**Field of Study:** Biochemistry

**Program Information:** [bulletin.case.edu/medicine/biochemistry/biochemistry-ms/](http://bulletin.case.edu/medicine/biochemistry/biochemistry-ms/)

**Degree:** Juris Doctor (JD)

**Program Information:** [bulletin.case.edu/law/programs/law-jd/](http://bulletin.case.edu/law/programs/law-jd/)

## 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 hours of law school classwork in courses dealing with science issues, in place of 9 credits of other elective work. Thus, the student will take a total of 27 hours of Biochemistry coursework of which at least 12 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. In addition, dual degree students are granted priority registration for upper-level courses, ensuring that they will be able to adjust their schedules to take all the required classes. 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 hrs graded coursework, including 1 hour EXAM 600 Master's Comprehensive Exam

### First Year

Summer	Hours
Department of Biochemistry accepts 9 hours of law school classwork in courses dealing with science issues to be counted towards Biochemistry, MS	9
<b>Hours</b>	<b>9</b>

### Fall

BIOC 407	Introduction to Biochemistry: From Molecules To Medical Science	4
BIOC Elective		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>7</b>

### Spring

BIOC 408	Molecular Biology	4
BIOC Elective		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>7</b>

### Second Year

#### Fall

BIOC 412	Proteins and Enzymes	3
BIOC Elective		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>6</b>

#### Spring

BIOC 434	Structural Biology	3
BIOC Elective		3
EXAM 600	Master's Comprehensive Exam	1
<b>Hours</b>		<b>7</b>

**Total Hours 36**

## Research Oriented

Totals: 17 hr graded coursework, 10 hr research (BIOC 601 Biochemical Research), 1 hour EXAM 600 Master's Comprehensive Exam

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