

BIOCHEMISTRY, BS

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Degree: Bachelor of Science (BS)

Field of Study: Biochemistry

Program Overview

The field of biochemistry encompasses an extremely broad and ever-growing variety of topics focused on studying biomedically-relevant problems from a molecular point of view. Biochemists make fundamental discoveries that enhance understanding of human health and disease, and contribute to the development of therapeutics.

The Department of Biochemistry in the School of Medicine offers majors leading to BA and BS degrees, as well as a minor. Biochemical studies prepare students well: for medical or other professional schools; for top graduate programs; for research or technical positions in industry (e.g. biotechnology, pharmaceutical) or academia; and for a variety of careers in which biomedical knowledge is crucial (e.g. finance, consulting, media, intellectual property, education).

Biochemistry courses are taught from a biomedical point of view. Research in faculty laboratories is a strength of the major. Students are expected to be engaged in biochemical research multiple semesters and required to complete BIOC 391 in at least one semester. Graduating seniors present their research during their last semester in BIOC 393 as a written thesis and a presentation at the Biochemistry Capstone Retreat.

Both the BA and BS programs offer five optional concentrations which are defined by their required courses: Cancer Biology, Infectious Disease, Metabolism, Computational Health Science, and Research Honors.

The primary differences between the Biochemistry BA and BS curricula are that the BS requires the more rigorous MATH, PHYS, and STAT courses, and completion of three technical electives compared to two for the BA.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will understand the central biochemical mechanisms that are important in human biology and medicine.
- Students will learn biochemical approaches that align with the understanding of normal physiology and disease.
- Students will understand that macromolecular structure determines function and regulation.
- Students will learn that energy is required by and transformed in biological systems
- Students will understand the molecular basis of information storage and flow within and between cells.
- Students will learn that scientific discovery requires objective measurement, quantitative analysis and clear communication.
- Students will learn the value and application of experiential learning to the practice of research.

Undergraduate Policies

For undergraduate policies and procedures, please review the Undergraduate Academics section of the General Bulletin.

Accelerated Master's Programs

Undergraduate students may participate in accelerated programs toward graduate or professional degrees. For more information and details of the policies and procedures related to accelerated studies, please visit the Undergraduate Academics section of the General Bulletin.

Program Requirements

Students seeking to complete this major and degree program must meet the general requirements for bachelor's degrees and the Unified General Education Requirements. Students completing this program as a secondary major while completing another undergraduate degree program do not need to satisfy the school-specific requirements associated with this major.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses:		
BIOC 101	Frontiers in Biochemistry	1
BIOC 307	Introduction to Biochemistry: From Molecules To Medical Science	4
BIOC 308	Molecular Biology	4
BIOC 373	Biochemistry Senior Seminar	3
BIOC 391	Capstone Research	3
BIOC 393	Senior Capstone Communication	3
or BIOC 393H	Biochemistry Honors Senior Capstone	
<i>Choose two of the following:</i>		6
BIOC 312	Proteins and Enzymes	
BIOC 334	Structural and Computational Biology	
BIOC 350	Molecular Basis of Cancer	
Three BIOC technical electives		9
BIOL 214	Genes, Evolution and Ecology	3
BIOL 215	Cells and Proteins	3
<i>Choose two of the following:</i>		2-3
BIOL 214L	Genes, Evolution and Ecology Lab	
BIOL 215L	Cells and Proteins Laboratory	
BIOL 216L	Development and Physiology Lab	
BIOL 222L	Introductory Research Lab in Biology	
CHEM 105	Principles of Chemistry I	3-4
or CHEM 111	Principles of Chemistry for Engineers	
CHEM 106	Principles of Chemistry II	3-4
or ENGR 145	Chemistry of Materials	
CHEM 113	Principles of Chemistry Laboratory	2
CHEM 223	Introductory Organic Chemistry I	3
or CHEM 323	Organic Chemistry I	
CHEM 224	Introductory Organic Chemistry II	3
or CHEM 324	Organic Chemistry II	
CHEM 233	Introductory Organic Chemistry Laboratory I	2
CHEM 234	Introductory Organic Chemistry Laboratory II	2
MATH 121	Calculus for Science and Engineering I	4
MATH 122	Calculus for Science and Engineering II	4
or MATH 124	Calculus II	
PHYS 121	General Physics I - Mechanics	4
or PHYS 123	Physics and Frontiers I - Mechanics	
PHYS 122	General Physics II - Electricity and Magnetism	4

or PHYS 124	Physics and Frontiers II - Electricity and Magnetism	
STAT 312R	Basic Statistics for Engineering and Science Using R Programming	3
or STAT 312	Basic Statistics for Engineering and Science	
or STAT 313	Statistics for Experimenters	
ENGR 131	Elementary Computer Programming	3
or CSDS 132	Programming in Java	
Total Credit Hours		81-82

Departmental Honors

Biochemistry majors who have excellent academic records may be awarded Biochemistry Undergraduate Honors. To graduate with departmental honors in biochemistry, a student must satisfy the following requirements:

1. A grade point average of at least 3.6
2. A minimum of 6 credit hours of undergraduate research BIOC 391 in one laboratory
3. A BIOC 393 capstone report approved by the Undergraduate Education Committee of the department on the basis of the quality of the research, the written report, and an oral presentation. An acceptable report:
 - a. Should follow a standard journal format
 - b. Should demonstrate the student's understanding of the research area, experimental techniques, goals and implications of the project
 - c. Should show that the student has advanced their knowledge of the applicable techniques and the underlying scientific concepts.
4. Using all or part of the capstone research, the student must be a co-author on a manuscript either submitted, in press, or published in a peer reviewed journal.

Concentrations

Cancer Biology Concentration Requirements:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
BIOC 350	Molecular Basis of Cancer	3
BIOC 353	Biochemical Pathways in Cancer Therapeutics	3
BIOC 360	Advanced Technologies for Cancer Research	3
Total Credit Hours		9

Infectious Disease Concentration Requirements:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
BIOC 310	Microbial Physiology and Therapeutic Opportunities	3
BIOC 311	Antimicrobial Therapies and Resistance	3
BIOC 334	Structural and Computational Biology	3
Total Credit Hours		9

Metabolism Concentration Requirements:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
BIOC 312	Proteins and Enzymes	3
<i>Choose two of the following:</i>		6
BIOC 315	Lipids, Membranes, and Membrane Proteins	
BIOC 344	Molecular Endocrinology	
BIOC 345	Metabolic Regulation, Dysregulation, and Disease	
Total Credit Hours		9

Computational Health Science Concentration Requirements:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
BIOC 334	Structural and Computational Biology	3
PQHS 431	Statistical Methods I	3
PQHS 457	Current Issues in Genetic Epidemiology: Design and Analysis of Sequencing Studies	3
Total Credit Hours		9

Research Honors Concentration Requirements:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
BIOC 285	Honors Readings in Biochemistry	1
BIOC 391	Capstone Research	6
BIOC 393H	Biochemistry Honors Senior Capstone	3
Total Credit Hours		10

Sample Plan of Study

First Year

Fall		Credit Hours
BIOC 101	Frontiers in Biochemistry	1
BIOL 214 & 214L	Genes, Evolution and Ecology and Genes, Evolution and Ecology Lab	4
CHEM 105 or CHEM 111	Principles of Chemistry I or Principles of Chemistry for Engineers	3
MATH 121	Calculus for Science and Engineering I	4
CHEM 113	Principles of Chemistry Laboratory	2
Academic Inquiry Seminar, Breadth, or Elective course ^a		3
Credit Hours		17

Spring

BIOL 215 & 215L	Cells and Proteins and Cells and Proteins Laboratory	4
CHEM 106 or ENGR 145	Principles of Chemistry II or Chemistry of Materials	3
MATH 122 or MATH 124	Calculus for Science and Engineering II or Calculus II	4
PHYS 121 or PHYS 123	General Physics I - Mechanics ^b or Physics and Frontiers I - Mechanics	4
Academic Inquiry Seminar, Breadth, or Elective course ^a		3
Credit Hours		18

Second Year**Fall**

CHEM 223 or CHEM 323	Introductory Organic Chemistry I ^b or Organic Chemistry I	3
CHEM 233	Introductory Organic Chemistry Laboratory I	2
ENGR 131 or CSDS 132	Elementary Computer Programming or Programming in Java	3
PHYS 122 or PHYS 124	General Physics II - Electricity and Magnetism ^b or Physics and Frontiers II - Electricity and Magnetism	4
Breadth, or Elective course ^a		3

Credit Hours	15
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Spring

CHEM 224 or CHEM 324	Introductory Organic Chemistry II ^b or Organic Chemistry II	3
CHEM 234	Introductory Organic Chemistry Laboratory II	2
STAT 312 or STAT 312R or STAT 313	Basic Statistics for Engineering and Science or Basic Statistics for Engineering and Science Using R Programming or Statistics for Experimenters	3
Breadth, or Elective course ^a		3
Elective		3

Credit Hours	14
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Third Year**Fall**

BIOC 307	Introduction to Biochemistry: From Molecules To Medical Science	4
Breadth, or Elective course ^a		3
BIOC technical elective		3
Elective		3

Credit Hours	13
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Spring

BIOC 308	Molecular Biology (BIOC core course)	4
BIOC 391	Capstone Research	3
Breadth, or Elective course ^a		3
BIOC core course ^d		3
BIOC technical elective		3

Credit Hours	16
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Fourth Year**Fall**

BIOC 373	Biochemistry Senior Seminar	3
BIOC 391	Capstone Research ^e	3
Breadth, or Elective course ^a		3
Elective		3
BIOC core course ^d		3

Credit Hours	15
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Spring

BIOC 393	Senior Capstone Communication	3
Breadth, or Elective course ^a		3
BIOC technical elective		3

Electives	6
Credit Hours	15
Total Credit Hours	123

- a Unified General Education Requirement.
- b Selected students may be invited to take CHEM 323 or CHEM 324
- c Selected students may be invited to take PHYS 123 and PHYS 124 in place of PHYS 121 and PHYS 122.
- d BS students must take two of the three Biochemistry core courses: BIOC 312, BIOC 334, or BIOC 350. For BS students who take all three courses, one course can serve as a technical elective.
- e 3 credit hours of BIOC 391 are required; an additional 3 credit hours of BIOC 391 are highly recommended and are required for the Research Honors Concentration. Students should consult their academic advisers about the elective parts of the curriculum.