Biochemistry and Biophysics

Agricultural Biochemistry Major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

For the undergraduate curriculum leading to the degree bachelor of science, see College of Agriculture, Agricultural biochemistry .

Biochemistry or Biophysics Majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Biochemistry and biophysics are recommended to students whose career interests involve advanced graduate or medical study or employment in biochemistry or biophysics, or in related areas of the biological or medical sciences.

Biochemistry undergraduate major program of study

Total Degree Requirement: 120 cr.

BBMB 101	Introduction to Biochemistry	1
BBMB 102	Introduction to Biochemistry Laboratory	1
BBMB 201	Chemical Principles in Biological Systems	2
BBMB 404	Biochemistry I	3
or (4 credits)		
BBMB 504	Amino Acids and Proteins	
BBMB 505	Bioenergetics and Metabolism	
BBMB 405	Biochemistry II	3
or (4 credits)		
BBMB 506	Membrane Biochemistry	
BBMB 507	Biochemistry of Nucleic Acids	
BBMB 411	Techniques in Biochemical Research	4
BBMB 461	Molecular Biophysics	2
or BBMB 561	Molecular Biophysics	
BBMB 490	Independent Study (Not required)	1-3
BBMB 499	Undergraduate Research (Not required but strongly encouraged)	1-5
Take one of the following:		5-7
CHEM 201	Advanced General Chemistry	
or CHEM 177 & CHEM 178	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II	
Take one of the following:		
CHEM 201L	Laboratory in Advanced General Chemistry	
or CHEM 177N	Laboratory in General Chemistry I	
or CHEM 177L	Laboratory in General Chemistry I	
CHEM 211 & 211L	Quantitative and Environmental Analysis and Quantitative and Environmental Analysis Laboratory	4
BBMB 561L	Laboratory in Molecular Biophysics	2
or CHEM 322L	Laboratory in Physical Chemistry	
CHEM 324	Introductory Quantum Mechanics	3
CHEM 325	Chemical Thermodynamics	3
CHEM 331 & CHEM 332	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry II	6
CHEM 333L	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry I (for Chemistry and Biochemistry Majors)	1-2
or CHEM 331L	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry I	
CHEM 334L	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry II (for Chemistry and Biochemistry Majors)	2
or CHEM 332L	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry II	
MATH 165	Calculus I	4
MATH 166	Calculus II	4
MATH 265	Calculus III	3-4
or MATH 266	Elementary Differential Equations	
or MATH 267	Elementary Differential Equations and Laplace Transforms	
PHYS 221 & PHYS 222	Introduction to Classical Physics I and Introduction to Classical Physics II	10
BIOL 211 & BIOL 212	Principles of Biology I and Principles of Biology II	6
BIOL 211L	Principles of Biology Laboratory I	1
or BIOL 212L	Principles of Biology Laboratory II	
or BIOL 313L	Genetics Laboratory	
BIOL 313	Principles of Genetics	3
BIOL 314	Principles of Molecular Cell Biology	3
Biological Science electives	from Biology, Genetics, Microbiology, Biochemistry or Chemistry	4
Total Credits		**82-92**

Communication Proficiency (Minimum grade C-)

LIB 160	Information Literacy	1
ENGL 150	Critical Thinking and Communication	3
ENGL 250	Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition	3
One course from the following:		
ENGL 305	Creative Writing: Nonfiction	3
ENGL 309	Report and Proposal Writing	3
ENGL 314	Technical Communication	3
BBMB 411	Techniques in Biochemical Research	4

General Education Area

Arts and Humanities	12
Social Sciences	9
International Perspectives	3
U.S. Diversity	3

Biophysics undergraduate major program of study

Total Degree Requirement: 120 cr,

BBMB 101	Introduction to Biochemistry	1
BBMB 102	Introduction to Biochemistry Laboratory	1
BBMB 404	Biochemistry I	3
BBMB 411	Techniques in Biochemical Research	4
BBMB 461	Molecular Biophysics	2
or BBMB 561	Molecular Biophysics	
Take one of the following:		5-7
CHEM 201	Advanced General Chemistry	
CHEM 177 & CHEM 178	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II	
CHEM 201L	Laboratory in Advanced General Chemistry	1
or CHEM 177N	Laboratory in General Chemistry I	
or CHEM 177L	Laboratory in General Chemistry I	
CHEM 211 & 211L	Quantitative and Environmental Analysis and Quantitative and Environmental Analysis Laboratory	4
BBMB 561L	Laboratory in Molecular Biophysics	2
or CHEM 322L	Laboratory in Physical Chemistry	
CHEM 324	Introductory Quantum Mechanics	3
CHEM 325	Chemical Thermodynamics	3
CHEM 331 & CHEM 332	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry II	6
MATH 165	Calculus I	4
MATH 166	Calculus II	4
MATH 265	Calculus III	4
MATH 266	Elementary Differential Equations	3
MATH 207	Matrices and Linear Algebra	3
or MATH 317	Theory of Linear Algebra	
PHYS 221 & PHYS 222	Introduction to Classical Physics I and Introduction to Classical Physics II	10
One course from the following:		
MATH 481	Numerical Methods for Differential Equations	
STAT 407	Methods of Multivariate Analysis	
STAT 430	Empirical Methods for the Computational Sciences	
COM S 207	Fundamentals of Computer Programming	3
STAT 305	Engineering Statistics	3-4

or STAT 231	Probability and Statistical Inference for Engineers	
BIOL 211 & BIOL 212	Principles of Biology I and Principles of Biology II	6
BIOL 211L	Principles of Biology Laboratory I	1
or BIOL 212L	Principles of Biology Laboratory II	
Additional 300+ or higher level courses in biochemistry, biophysics, biological sciences, chemistry or physics.		9
Total Credits		**85-88**

Communication Proficiency (Minimum grade C-)

LIB 160	Information Literacy	1
ENGL 150	Critical Thinking and Communication	3
ENGL 250	Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition	3
One course from the following:		
ENGL 305	Creative Writing: Nonfiction	3
ENGL 309	Report and Proposal Writing	3
ENGL 314	Technical Communication	3
BBMB 411	Techniques in Biochemical Research	4

General Education Area

Arts and Humanities	12
Social Sciences	9
U.S. Diversity	3
International Perspectives	3

Biochemistry minor is offered in both the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Agriculture and Life Sciences

BBMB 404	Biochemistry I	3
BBMB 405	Biochemistry II	3
BBMB 411	Techniques in Biochemical Research	4
One course from the following:		2-3
BBMB 461	Molecular Biophysics (2 crs)	
BBMB 561	Molecular Biophysics (2 crs)	
CHEM 325	Chemical Thermodynamics	
300+ level courses in BBMB or CHEM to 15 cr total		3-4
Total Credits		**15-17**

These lists of courses should not be regarded as statements of fixed requirements or as complete outlines of the work necessary for the major. They are given solely for the convenience of students or advisers who wish to estimate the amount of basic study that may be needed.

See also the B.S./M.S. program under Graduate Study.

Graduate Study

The department offers work for the degrees master of science and doctor of philosophy with majors in biochemistry and biophysics and with interdepartmental majors in genetics, immunobiology, MCDB (molecular, cellular, and developmental biology), plant physiology, and toxicology. Minor work is offered to students taking major work in other departments.

Prerequisite to graduate work is a sound undergraduate background in biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics.

All graduate students are required by the department to teach as part of their training for an advanced degree.

The department offers a B.S./M.S. program in biochemistry that allows students to obtain both the B.S. and M.S. degrees in five years. The program is open to students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the College of Agriculture. Students interested in this program should contact the department office for details. Application for admission to the Graduate College should be made near the end of the junior undergraduate (third) year. Students would begin research for the M.S. thesis during the summer semester after their junior year and are eligible for research assistantships.

Undergraduate Study

The department of Biochemistry, Biophysics & Molecular Biology (http://www.bbmb.iastate.edu) offers majors in biochemistry or biophysics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a major in agricultural biochemistry in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Biochemists and biophysicists seek to understand life processes in terms of chemical and physical principles. They conduct research in the frontiers of biology such as metabolic networking; structure and function of enzymes, membranes, and hormones; computational approaches; genomic and proteomic technology; protein engineering; plant biotechnology; muscle structure and function; and the design and evaluation of drugs for the treatment of disease. Biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology provide the basis for much of modern biotechnology. Graduates have opportunities in industry, especially the biotechnology sector, in universities, veterinary and medical schools, and government laboratories. Students who meet the necessary high scholastic standards have the opportunity to continue their education to pursue advanced degrees in graduate school, medicine, pharmacy or veterinary medicine.

Graduates of biochemistry, agricultural biochemistry and biophysics understand the chemical principles of biological systems including molecular biology. They have developed laboratory expertise in modern biochemical techniques, including the ability to analyze data and prepare scientific reports. Most have participated in undergraduate research and have developed the skills necessary for both written and oral presentations at a level that will serve the student both within the university and in postgraduate professional life. Graduates have the experience of interacting with persons of different disciplines and cultures. Students have the training in biological and physical science and mathematics to solve problems of broad scope in biological, biomedical and environmental sciences and to provide leadership in diverse scientific and technological arenas.