Undergraduate Microbiology Major

Interested in the study of small things that have a big impact? Then Microbiology may be the place for you.

Our mission in the Microbiology Program is to instill a comprehensive understanding of microbiology and its relevance to human society and global health, and to cultivate the concepts and skills necessary to succeed in microbiology-related careers.

Iowa State University’s Microbiology Undergraduate Program offers:

- Extensive hands-on laboratory experiences that develop problem solving & technical skills used in a variety of professional careers
- Application of science to issues in the modern world
- Excellent preparation for human medicine and veterinary medicine
- Preparation for employment in a variety of professional settings
- Research opportunities and interaction with professors from across Iowa State University Departments of Animal Science, Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Biology, Veterinary Microbiology, Veterinary Pathology, Food Science, Entomology, and Geology
- Degrees in microbiology at both the undergraduate (B.S.) level and graduate (M.S., PhD., see Graduate Major) level

Career opportunities:

Opportunities after graduation include the following:

- Biomedical research scientist
- Biotechnology firms
- Biorenewables industry
- Forensic scientist
- Pharmaceutical and vaccine development companies
- Immunologist
- Agricultural microbiology and plant pathology
- International agricultural research centers
- Government laboratories (CDC, NADC, USDA)
- Infectious disease
- Food safety and food technology
- Water quality
- Ecology and environmental microbiology
- Botanical gardens & nurseries
- Technical brewer
- Science writer
- Public health agencies
- Public policy organizations

Interested in Human medicine or Veterinary medicine? A microbiology degree prepares students for advanced study in Dentistry, Medical Laboratory Science, Optometry, Pharmacy, Physician Assistant Programs, and Physician or Veterinary education. Go to micro.iastate.edu (https://www.micro.iastate.edu/) to find more information about the Microbiology Program.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation, students should be able to:

1. Research and critically evaluate topics in microbiology; understand and communicate results from primary and secondary literature to a variety of audiences.
2. Utilize appropriate quantitative and qualitative microbiological laboratory techniques and equipment, including microscopy, biochemical tests, serological assays, and genetic manipulation.
3. Explain how evolution unifies and explains the diversity of microbes in terms of microbial structure, function, metabolism, and genetics.
4. Describe common adaptations that enable organisms to survive in an ecological niche, such as how microbiota can impact plants, animals/humans, food, and soil health in beneficial, neutral, or negative ways.
5. Develop and follow lab protocols, interpret data, maintain an accurate lab notebook, and create illustrative graphs and tables.
6. Communicate and collaborate across disciplines about fundamental concepts in microbiology and discuss the relationship of science, society, and ethical issues in microbiology.

Curriculum in Microbiology

www.micro.iastate.edu (http://www.micro.iastate.edu)

Administered by an interdepartmental committee.

Total Degree Requirement: 128 cr.

Only 65 cr. from a two-year institution may apply which may include up to 16 technical cr.; 9 P-NP cr. of free electives; 2.00 minimum GPA.

International Perspective: 3 cr.

International Perspectives Courses (https://www.registrar.iastate.edu/students/div-ip-guide/IntlPerspectives-current/)

U.S. Diversity: 3 cr.

U.S. Diversity Courses (https://www.registrar.iastate.edu/students/div-ip-guide/usdiversity-courses/)
Electives: 7-12

**Communications Proficiency:**
- English composition - with a C or better
  6
- Speech fundamentals - with a C or better
  3

**Communication/Library:**
- ENGL 150 Critical Thinking and Communication
  3
- ENGL 250 Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition
  3
- SP CM 212 Fundamentals of Public Speaking
  3
- One course from the following:
  - ENGL 302 Business Communication
  - ENGL 309 Proposal and Report Writing
  - ENGL 312 Communicating Science and Public Engagement
  - ENGL 314 Technical Communication
  - LIB 160 Introduction to College Level Research
  1

**Total Credits**
  13

**Humanities and Social Sciences:**
- Approved Humanities list
  1
  3
- Approved Social Science list
  2
  3
  1 Humanities Course list (https://www.cals.iastate.edu/student-services/humanities/)
  2 Social Sciences Course list (https://www.cals.iastate.edu/student-services/social-sciences/)

**Ethics: 3 cr.**
- 3 cr. from approved Ethics Course list (https://www.cals.iastate.edu/student-services/ethics/)

**Mathematical Sciences:**
- One of the following:
  - MATH 143 Preparation for Calculus
    & MATH 160 and Survey of Calculus
  - MATH 165 Calculus I
    & MATH 166 and Calculus II
  - MATH 160 Survey of Calculus
    & STAT 301 and Intermediate Statistical Concepts and Methods
  7-8

**Total Credits**
  10-12

**Physical Sciences:**
- CHEM 177 General Chemistry I
  4
- CHEM 177L Laboratory in General Chemistry I
  1
- CHEM 178 General Chemistry II
  3
- One of the following:
  5-10

**Total Credits**
  23-31

**Biological Sciences:**
- BIOL 211 Principles of Biology I
  3
- BIOL 211L Principles of Biology Laboratory I
  1
- BIOL 212 Principles of Biology II
  3
- BIOL 212L Principles of Biology Laboratory II
  1
- BIOL 313 Principles of Genetics
  3
- BIOL 313L Genetics Laboratory
  1
- BIOL 314 Principles of Molecular Cell Biology
  3

**Total Credits**
  15

**Microbiology:**
- Core courses:
  - MICRO 110 Professional and Educational Preparation in Microbiology
    1
  - MICRO 302 Biology of Microorganisms
    3
  - MICRO 302L Microbiology Laboratory
    1
  - MICRO 310 Medical Microbiology
    3
  - One of the following:
    1
    - MICRO 310L Medical Microbiology Laboratory
    - MICRO 475L Immunology Laboratory
    - MICRO 320 Molecular and Cellular Bacteriology
    4
    - MICRO 440 Laboratory in Microbial Physiology, Diversity, and Genetics
    4
    - MICRO 450 Undergraduate Capstone Colloquium
    2
    - MICRO 451 Survey in Microbiology
    R
  - One of the following:
    3
    - MICRO 430 Procaryotic Diversity and Ecology
    - MICRO 456 Principles of Mycology
    - MICRO 477 Bacterial-Plant Interactions
Additional nine credit hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICRO 353</td>
<td>Introductory Parasitology</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICRO 374</td>
<td>Insects and Our Health</td>
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<td>MICRO 374L</td>
<td>Insects and Our Health Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICRO 402</td>
<td>Microbial Genetics and Genomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICRO 407</td>
<td>Microbiological Safety of Foods of Animal Origins</td>
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<td>MICRO 408</td>
<td>Virology</td>
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<td>MICRO 420</td>
<td>Food Microbiology</td>
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<td>MICRO 421</td>
<td>Food Microbiology Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICRO 430</td>
<td>Procaryotic Diversity and Ecology</td>
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<td>MICRO 456</td>
<td>Principles of Mycology</td>
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<td>MICRO 475</td>
<td>Immunology</td>
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<td>Immunology Laboratory</td>
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<td>MICRO 477</td>
<td>Bacterial-Plant Interactions</td>
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<td>MICRO 485</td>
<td>Soil and Environmental Microbiology</td>
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<td>MICRO 487</td>
<td>Microbial Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICRO 490</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
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Microbiology elective - only 3 cr. lab courses allowed

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 250</td>
<td>3 Humanities choice</td>
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Total Credits 31

Microbiology, B.S.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Course Titles</th>
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<td>MICRO 101</td>
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<tr>
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<td>BIOL 211L</td>
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<td>CHEM 178</td>
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<td>CHEM 177</td>
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<td>STAT 104</td>
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<td>CHEM 177L</td>
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<td>LIB 160</td>
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| Credits | 17 |

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<td>MICRO Environmental or Elective</td>
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<td>MICRO 310L</td>
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<td>BIOL 313</td>
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<td>CHEM 331</td>
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<td>BIOL 313L</td>
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<td>CHEM 331L</td>
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<td>CHEM 332</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 143, 160, or 165</td>
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<td>MATH 160, STAT 301, or MATH 166</td>
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| Credits | 17 |

| Credits | 17 |

Second Year

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<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>MICRO 353</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 250</td>
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<td>Humanities choice</td>
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| Credits | 15 |

<table>
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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Course Titles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Micro</td>
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<td>MICRO elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICRO elective</td>
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<td>MICRO 450</td>
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<td>MICRO 451</td>
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<td>R BBMB 405</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETHICS choice</td>
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<td>Social Science choice</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBMB 404</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 Gen Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Diversity</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Credits | 16 |

| Credits | 16 |

Minor

The program offers a minor in microbiology which may be earned by accumulating a minimum of 15 credits of microbiology courses.

Students requesting a minor in Microbiology must take the following:

1) MICRO 201 Introduction to Microbiology and MICRO 201L Introductory Microbiology Laboratory or MICRO 302 Biology of Microorganisms and MICRO 302L Microbiology Laboratory

2) Additional lecture credits and no more than 3 additional lab credits to reach 15 credits. For a list of acceptable courses see https://www.micro.iastate.edu/files/inline-files/minor_in_microbiology_21-22_1.pdf

3) At least 6 credits at the 300+ level and must include at least 9 credits that are not used to meet any other department, college, or university requirement.

Graduate Study

The program offers work for the degrees master of science and doctor of philosophy in microbiology and for a minor for students majoring in other programs. The interdepartmental microbiology major is offered...
through faculty housed in twelve departments, including Agronomy; Animal Science; Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology; Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering; Entomology; Food Science and Human Nutrition; Genetics, Developmental and Cell Biology; Geological and Atmospheric Sciences; Plant Pathology and Microbiology; Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine; Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine; and Veterinary Pathology. Faculty coordinate graduate education and research in a wide range of topics fundamental to the discipline of microbiology. Specific information about individual faculty and their research areas is available at www.micrograd.iastate.edu. (http://www.micrograd.iastate.edu/)

Prerequisites to graduate study include a sound undergraduate background in chemistry, mathematics and biology, including microbiology and genetics.

Graduates in the Microbiology Graduate program have a broad-based knowledge in the fundamentals of microbiology as well as advanced knowledge in specific areas as determined by their areas of research focus. Students completing the thesis have the technical, research, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and computer skills to design, implement, and conduct research using a variety of current techniques and equipment. They are also able to communicate research results effectively with scientific peer groups in both oral and written formats.