

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

How does life work at the molecular level? This question is at the core of the concentration program Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. In earlier years of this discipline, the focus was on structure and function of proteins, nucleic acids, lipids, carbohydrates and small molecules such as vitamins. Today the logical approach and tools of biochemical science are being expanded to new areas in neuroscience, developmental biology, immunology, pharmacology and synthetic biology (the design of analogs of biological systems). Training in biochemistry begins with a foundation in mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology. Some courses offered in other departments, including engineering, geology and computer science, are also useful. A key component of this program is the year of hands-on research carried out in collaboration with a faculty member here at Brown. Faculty sponsors are drawn from both the Chemistry Department and the Division of Biology and Medicine, and include basic science and clinical faculty.

Standard program for the Sc.B. degree

Students must take twenty courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics, including the following core requirements, some of these may be fulfilled with AP credits.

Three courses in mathematics including two courses in MATH 0090/0100 or MATH 0170/0180 with a third class in statistics, math, or computer science ¹ 3

Options for statistics courses include: ¹

APMA 0650	Introduction to Probability and Statistics
APMA 1650	Introduction to Probability and Statistics with Calculus
APMA 1655	Introduction to Probability and Statistics with Theory ³
BIOL 0495	Statistical Analysis of Biological Data
CPSY 0900	Statistical Methods
PHP 1501	Essentials of Data Analysis
PHP 1510	Principles of Biostatistics and Data Analysis

Two courses in physics, typically: ¹ 2

PHYS 0030	Basic Physics A
or PHYS 0050	Foundations of Mechanics
or ENGN 0040	Engineering Statics and Dynamics
PHYS 0040	Basic Physics B
or PHYS 0060	Foundations of Electromagnetism and Modern Physics

Three courses in physical and organic chemistry: 3

CHEM 0330	Equilibrium, Rate, and Structure
CHEM 0350	Organic Chemistry I
CHEM 0360	Organic Chemistry II

One course in biophysical chemistry: ¹ 1

CHEM 0400	Biophysical and Bioinorganic Chemistry
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Four courses in biochemistry: 4

BIOL 0280	Biochemistry
BIOL 0285	Inquiry in Biochemistry: From Gene to Protein Function

Plus two of three upper level biochemistry courses:

BIOL 1270	Advanced Biochemistry
or CHEM 1230	Chemical Biology
or CHEM 1240	Biochemistry

The two semester research requirement may be satisfied by any two of the following. Students should discuss alternative arrangements or special situations directly with their concentration advisor to obtain prior approval. 2

Students should aim to complete this requirement in their junior year at the latest to maximize their ability to find a lab able to host them. Finding a lab involves reaching out to professors directly to inquire about research possibilities in their lab prior to receiving an override code for registration for BIOL1950/1960 or Chem 0980/0980S/0981.

BIOL 1950	Directed Research/Independent Study
BIOL 1960	Directed Research/Independent Study
CHEM 0980	Undergraduate Research
CHEM 0980S	Undergraduate Research - Writing Designated and Mandatory S/NC
CHEM 0981	Undergraduate Research - Writing Designated

A summer research experience with faculty in Biology or Chemistry at Brown equivalent or greater in scope and scale to work the student would pursue in a Biology or Chemistry independent study course to satisfy one semester of the research requirement.

Suggested Elective Courses:

Students are required to take five courses from the chart below or, with approval from a concentration advisor, from any science or mathematics course relevant to biochemistry, cell and molecular biology. 5

Applied Mathematics Electives:

APMA 0330	Methods of Applied Mathematics I
APMA 0410	Mathematical Methods in the Brain Sciences
APMA 0650	Introduction to Probability and Statistics

Biology Electives:

BIOL 0030	Principles of Nutrition
BIOL 0150D	Techniques in Regenerative Medicine: Cells, Scaffolds and Staining
BIOL 0170	Biotechnology in Medicine
BIOL 0190R	Phage Hunters
BIOL 0200	The Foundation of Living Systems
BIOL 0380	The Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Disease
BIOL 0415	Microbes in the Environment
BIOL 0440	Inquiry in Plant Biology: Analysis of Plant Growth, Reproduction and Adaptive Responses
BIOL 0470	Genetics
BIOL 0500	Cell and Molecular Biology
BIOL 0510	Introductory Microbiology
BIOL 0530	Principles of Immunology
BIOL 0800	Principles of Physiology
BIOL 1050	Biology of the Eukaryotic Cell
BIOL 1090	Polymer Science for Biomaterials
BIOL 1100	Cell Physiology and Biophysics
BIOL 1110	Topics in Signal Transduction
BIOL 1120	Biomaterials
BIOL 1150	Stem Cell Engineering
BIOL 1200	Protein Biophysics and Structure
BIOL 1210	Synthetic Biological Systems
BIOL 1222A	Current Topics in Functional Genomics
BIOL 1260	Physiological Pharmacology
BIOL 1290	Cancer Biology
BIOL 1300	Biomolecular Interactions: Health, Disease and Drug Design

BIOL 1310	Developmental Biology
BIOL 1330	Biology of Reproduction
BIOL 1520	Innate Immunity
BIOL 1540	Molecular Genetics
BIOL 1560	Virology
BIOL 1600	Development of Vaccines to Infectious Diseases
BIOL 2110	Drug and Gene Delivery
BIOL 2350	The Biology of Aging

Chemistry Electives:

CHEM 0500	Inorganic Chemistry
CHEM 1140	Physical Chemistry: Quantum Chemistry
CHEM 1150	Physical Chemistry: Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics
CHEM 1220	Computational Tools in Biochemistry and Chemical Biology
CHEM 1230	Chemical Biology
CHEM 1240	Biochemistry
CHEM 1450	Advanced Organic Chemistry
CHEM 1560H	Chemical Glycobiology
CHEM 1560N	Organometallic Chemistry
CHEM 2410	Organic Mechanisms
CHEM 2420	Organic Reactions

Computer Science Electives:

CSCI 0080	A First Byte of Computer Science
CSCI 0111	Computing Foundations: Data
CSCI 0150	Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming and Computer Science
CSCI 0160	Introduction to Algorithms and Data Structures
CSCI 0170	Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction
CSCI 0180	Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction
CSCI 0190	Accelerated Introduction to Computer Science
CSCI 1810	Computational Molecular Biology

Engineering Electives:

ENGN 0410	Materials Science
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Neuroscience Electives:²

NEUR 0010	The Brain: An Introduction to Neuroscience
NEUR 1020	Principles of Neurobiology
NEUR 1030	Neural Systems
NEUR 1040	Introduction to Neurogenetics
NEUR 1670	Neuropharmacology and Synaptic Transmission
NEUR 1740	The Diseased Brain: Mechanisms of Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders

Physics Electives:

PHYS 0160	Introduction to Relativity, Waves and Quantum Physics
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Public Health Electives:

PHP 1501	Essentials of Data Analysis
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Total Credits	20
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³ Students may opt to enroll in APMA 1655 for more in depth coverage of APMA 1650.

Honors Requirements for Biochemistry

All ScB Biochemistry concentrators are candidates for Honors; no separate application is necessary.

The requirements for Honors in Biochemistry are:

* Students must have a majority of either As or S with distinction grades in concentration courses.

* Two semesters of Independent Study (CHEM 0980, CHEM 0980S, CHEM 0981, BIOL 1950, or BIOL 1960). Guidelines and requirements associated with Independent Study are in the Undergraduate Concentration Handbook which can be found at the department website (<http://www.brown.edu/academics/chemistry/undergraduate/>).

* A Thesis in a form approved by the research advisor, and recommended by the research advisor. Additional information about thesis guidelines will be provided by the Concentration Advisor in the first half of the fall semester.

* An oral presentation of the thesis in a fifteen-minute senior talk followed by a five-minute question and answer period.

¹ Note that the mathematics and physics requirements may be satisfied by Advanced Placement credit.

² or any NEUR course in Cell, Genetics, Molecular Biology, or Development.