Biochemistry, B.S.

To maximize student flexibility, the curriculum for the B.S. with a major in biochemistry is identical to the B.A. degree in the first two years of study.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Science with a major in biochemistry requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 70 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

All students majoring in biochemistry are initially placed in the Bachelor of Arts degree program. Students in good academic standing can switch to the Bachelor of Science degree program after completing one semester of organic chemistry (CHEM:2230 Organic Chemistry I for Majors or CHEM:2210 Organic Chemistry I). Students who wish to change their degree program to the Bachelor of Science should do so by filling out a change of degree form at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Office of Academic Programs & Student Development.

The biochemistry major for the Bachelor of Science degree is intended primarily for students planning careers in research. The B.S. program prepares students to pursue graduate degrees, such as an M.S., Ph.D., or a combined M.D./Ph.D. program, or to work as research technicians. The B.S. program requires 15 s.h. more credit in science and laboratory electives than the B.A. program does.

Qualified students in the Bachelor of Science degree program may graduate with honors in the biochemistry major; see "Honors in the Major" under Honors in this section of the Catalog.

The B.S. with a major in biochemistry requires the following course work.

### Common Requirements

Students complete the following during their first two years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC:3120 &amp; BIOC:3130</td>
<td>Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I-II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC:3140</td>
<td>Experimental Biochemistry</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL:1411-1412</td>
<td>Foundations of Biology</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:1110 &amp; CHEM:1120</td>
<td>Principles of Chemistry I-II</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:2210 &amp; CHEM:2230</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM:2220 &amp; CHEM:2240</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:2410 &amp; CHEM:2420</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry Laboratory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH:1850 &amp; MATH:1860</td>
<td>Calculus I-II</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS:1511 &amp; PHYS:1611</td>
<td>College Physics I &amp; Introductory Physics I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHYS:1512 &amp; PHYS:1612</td>
<td>College Physics II &amp; Introductory Physics II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If students take PHYS:1612 Introductory Physics II, they must take the course with the lab component.

### Additional Requirements

In addition to the common requirements listed above, students must complete the following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC:4430</td>
<td>Principles of Physical Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:4431</td>
<td>Physical Chemistry I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:4432</td>
<td>Physical Chemistry II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC:4999</td>
<td>Research, Independent Study</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced laboratory courses</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And: Advanced science electives, approved by biochemistry advisor</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are encouraged to begin research by taking BIOC:3993 Undergraduate Independent Study, which has no prerequisites. The course involves experience in an active biochemistry research lab, which must be arranged ahead of time with a supervising faculty member. Students may make arrangements directly with the faculty member, or they may request assistance from an undergraduate advisor. Credit earned in BIOC:3993 does not count toward the major, but it does count toward the minimum of 120 s.h. required to graduate.

Before students register for BIOC:4999 Research, Independent Study, they must have completed BIOC:3120 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I, BIOC:3130 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology II, BIOC:3140 Experimental Biochemistry, and BIOC:3150 Development of Senior Research Project, with a grade of B-minus or higher in each course. Students also are required to have prior research experience, such as in BIOC:3993 Undergraduate Independent Study, URES:3994 Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects, or HONR:3994 Honors Research Practicum, and permission of the instructor. Students can only count 6 s.h. in BIOC:4999 toward their requirements for the degree.

### Teacher Licensure

Students interested in earning licensure to teach in elementary and/or secondary schools must complete the College of Education’s Teacher Education Program (TEP) in addition to the requirements for the major and all requirements for graduation. The TEP requires several College of Education courses and student teaching. Contact the Office of Student Services for details.

Students must satisfy all degree requirements and complete TEP licensure before degree conferral.
Combined Programs

B.S./Ph.D. in Biomedical Science  
(Biochemistry Subprogram)

The combined Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Philosophy program in biomedical science with a biochemistry subprogram permits students to transition into the Ph.D. program during their senior year and to count 12 s.h. of credit toward both the B.S. and Ph.D. requirements. The combined program provides a research-intensive experience and shortens the training time for students interested in pursuing independent biochemistry research careers. Students in the program receive financial support during the second half of their senior year and throughout their Ph.D. study.

Students must be pursuing a Bachelor of Science with a major in biochemistry, and by the beginning of their senior year they must:

- have 108 s.h. of undergraduate credit;
- have a minimum g.p.a. of 3.50;
- have completed four semesters of research experience (summer research counts as one semester); and
- have completed BIOC:3120 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I, BIOC:3130 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology II, and BIOC:3140 Experimental Biochemistry.

Students interested in the combined program should speak with their academic advisor and the biochemistry honors advisor during their first year or at the beginning of their sophomore year. Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For more information, contact the Department of Biochemistry.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33. They must earn 6 s.h. in BIOC:4999 Research, Independent Study and present their research results in a report written in the form of a journal article and in an oral report given at a special open departmental seminar.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the biochemistry major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.


Before the seventh semester begins: PHYS:1511 Introductory Physics I or PHYS:1511 College Physics I, PHYS:1612 Introductory Physics II or PHYS:1512 College Physics II, BIOC:3150 Development of Senior Research Project, one semester of BIOC:3993 Undergraduate Independent Study for students planning to take BIOC:4999 Research, Independent Study, BIOC:3120 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I, BIOC:3130 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology II, BIOC:3140 Experimental Biochemistry, two science electives, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: CHEM:4431 Physical Chemistry I or CHEM:4432 Physical Chemistry II or BIOC:4241 Biophysical Chemistry I or BIOC:4242 Biophysical Chemistry II, a science elective, and at least 3 s.h. of BIOC:4999 Research, Independent Study

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Biochemistry, B.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:1110</td>
<td>Principles of Chemistry I a, b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1850</td>
<td>Calculus I a, c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200</td>
<td>Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:1120</td>
<td>Principles of Chemistry II a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: a, b, c, d
### Second Year

#### Fall
- **BIOL:1411** Foundations of Biology  
  - Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- **CHEM:2230** or **CHEM:2210** Organic Chemistry I for Majors  
  - Enrollment in chemistry courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- **GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives**  
  - c. Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- **GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level** or Elective course  
  - Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
- **Elective course**  
  - d. Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

#### Hours
- Total Hours: 15-16

#### Spring
- **BIOL:1412** Diversity of Form and Function  
  - a. Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- **CHEM:2220** or **CHEM:2240** Organic Chemistry II or Organic Chemistry II for Majors  
  - b. Enrollment in chemistry courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- **CHEM:2410** or **CHEM:2420** Organic Chemistry Laboratory or Organic Chemistry Laboratory for Majors  
  - c. Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- **Major: science elective (consult with advisor)**  
  - d. Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- **GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level** or Elective course  
  - e. GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

#### Hours
- Total Hours: 17-18

### Third Year

#### Fall
- **BIOL:3120** Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I  
  - a. Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- **BIOL:3993** Undergraduate Independent Study  
  - b. Enrollment in chemistry courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- **PHYS:1511** or **PHYS:1611** College Physics I or Introductory Physics I  
  - c. Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- **GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture**  
  - d. Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- **GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level** or Elective course  
  - e. GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

#### Hours
- Total Hours: 17-18

#### Spring
- **BIOL:3130** Biochemistry and Molecular Biology II  
  - a. Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- **BIOL:3140** Development of Senior Research Project  
  - b. Enrollment in chemistry courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- **PHYS:1612** or **PHYS:1512** Introductory Physics II or College Physics II  
  - c. Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- **Major: science elective (consult with advisor)**  
  - d. Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- **GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level** or Elective course  
  - e. GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

#### Hours
- Total Hours: 16-17

### Fourth Year

#### Fall
- **BIOL:4999** Research, Independent Study  
  - a. Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- **BIOL:5241** or **CHEM:4431** Biophysical Chemistry I or Physical Chemistry I  
  - b. Enrollment in chemistry courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- **GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues**  
  - c. Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- **GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts**  
  - d. Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

#### Hours
- Total Hours: 15

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### Career Advancement

Biochemistry graduates with bachelor's degrees often work as research assistants in industry, government, education, or health services; teach in secondary schools; or go on to advanced study in medicine, dentistry, or other areas. The program offers solid preparation for careers in medicine, biology, chemistry, dentistry, research, or related sciences. About one-third of biochemistry majors go on to study medicine; others enter graduate programs or professional degree programs.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.