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 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 the prerequisites. The Bachelor of Science degree is intended primarily for students planning careers in research.

Qualified students may graduate with honors in the major; see "Honors in the Major" under Undergraduate Programs.

To qualify for honors in 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 Core. Students in good academic standing can switch to the Bachelor of Science degree program. Students in good academic standing can switch to the Bachelor of Science degree program after completing the prerequisites. The Bachelor of Science degree is intended primarily for students planning careers in research.

**Common Requirements**

Students complete the following during their first three years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMB:3120 &amp; BMB:3130</td>
<td>Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I-II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMB:3140</td>
<td>Experimental Biochemistry</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL:1411-1412</td>
<td>Foundations of Biology - Diversity of Form and Function</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</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:2210</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I for Majors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:2410</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry Laboratory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:2410</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry Laboratory for Majors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1850 &amp; MATH:1860</td>
<td>Calculus I-II</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMB:4240</td>
<td>Biophysics and Advanced Biochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM: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>BMB:4999</td>
<td>Advanced Undergraduate Biochemistry Research</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced laboratory courses</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And:</td>
<td>Advanced science electives, approved by biochemistry and molecular biology advisor</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are encouraged to begin research by taking BMB:3993 Undergraduate Biochemistry Research, which has no prerequisites. The course involves experience in the 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 BMB:3993 does not count toward the major, but it does count toward the minimum of 120 s.h. required to graduate.

**Teacher Licensure**

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Apply on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.
Combined Programs

B.S./Ph.D. in Biochemistry

The combined Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Philosophy in biochemistry program 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 BMB:3120 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I, BMB:3130 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology II, and BMB:3140 Experimental Biochemistry.

Students interested in the combined program should speak with their academic advisor and the biochemistry and molecular biology 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 and Molecular Biology.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. They must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and a g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in work for the major. They must earn 6 s.h. in BMB:4999 Advanced Undergraduate Biochemistry Research and present their research results in a honors thesis 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.

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.

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:1611 Introductory Physics I or PHYS:1511 College Physics I, PHYS:1612 Introductory Physics II or PHYS:1512 College Physics II, BMB:3150 Development of Senior Research Project, one semester of BMB:3993 Undergraduate Biochemistry Research for students planning to take BMB:4999 Advanced Undergraduate Biochemistry Research. BMB:3120 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I, BMB:3130 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology II, BMB:3140 Experimental Biochemistry, two science electives, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: BMB:4240 Biophysics and Advanced Biochemistry or CHEM:4430 Principles of Physical Chemistry or CHEM:4431 Physical Chemistry I or CHEM:4432 Physical Chemistry II, a science elective, and at least 3 s.h. of BMB:4999 Advanced Undergraduate Biochemistry Research.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework 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>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academic Career</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Semester</td>
<td>Students in good academic standing can switch from the B.A. to the B.S. degree program after completing one semester of organic chemistry (CHEM:2210 Organic Chemistry I or CHEM:2230 Organic Chemistry I for Majors).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Sustainability a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### First Year

**Fall**
- CHEM:1110 Principles of Chemistry I<sup>b, c</sup> 4
- MATH:1850 Calculus I<sup>c, d</sup> 4
- ENGL:1200 The Interpretation of Literature<sup>e</sup> or RHET:1030 or Rhetoric 3 - 4
- CSI:1600 Success at Iowa 2
- Elective course<sup>e</sup> 1

**Spring**
- CHEM:1120 Principles of Chemistry II<sup>c</sup> 4
- ENGL:1200 The Interpretation of Literature<sup>e</sup> or RHET:1030 or Rhetoric 3 - 4
- MATH:1860 Calculus II 4
- GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion<sup>f</sup> 3
- Elective course<sup>e</sup> 1

**Hours** 14-15

### Second Year

**Fall**
- BIOL:1411 Foundations of Biology<sup>c</sup> 4
- CHEM:2230 Organic Chemistry I for Majors or CHEM:2210 or Organic Chemistry I 3
- GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives<sup>g</sup> 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level<sup>j</sup> Proficiency or elective course 4 - 5
- Elective course<sup>e</sup> 2

**Spring**
- BIOL:1412 Diversity of Form and Function<sup>c</sup> 4
- CHEM:2240 Organic Chemistry II for Majors or CHEM:2220 or Organic Chemistry II 3
- CHEM:2420 Organic Chemistry Laboratory for Majors or CHEM:2410 or Organic Chemistry Laboratory 3
- Major: science elective (consult with advisor)<sup>h</sup> 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level<sup>j</sup> Proficiency or elective course 4 - 5

**Hours** 16-17

### Third Year

**Fall**
- BMB:3120 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I 3
- BMB:3993 Undergraduate Biochemistry Research 3
- PHYS:1611 Introductory Physics I<sup>c</sup> or PHYS:1511 or College Physics I 4
- GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture<sup>f</sup> 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level<sup>j</sup> Proficiency or elective course 4 - 5

**Spring**
- BMB:3130 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology II 3
- BMB:3140 Experimental Biochemistry 2
- BMB:3150 Development of Senior Research Project 2
- PHYS:1612 Introductory Physics II<sup>c</sup> or PHYS:1512 or College Physics II 4

### Fourth Year

**Fall**
- BMB:4999 Advanced Undergraduate Biochemistry Research 3
- CHEM:4431 Physical Chemistry I<sup>j</sup> or CHEM:4430 or Principles of Physical Chemistry or Biophysics and Advanced Biochemistry 3
- GE:4240 Major: science elective (consult with advisor)<sup>h</sup> 3
- GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues<sup>f</sup> 3
- GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts<sup>f</sup> 3

**Hours** 15

**Total Hours** 125-131

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**Notes:**

a. Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.

b. Enrollment in chemistry courses requires completion of a placement exam.

c. Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.

d. Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.

e. 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.

f. GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order.

ge. Students must complete BMB:4240 and one course from CHEM:4430, CHEM:4431, CHEM:4432.

h. Students are required to complete 9 s.h. in advanced science electives approved by biochemistry advisor.

i. Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate
timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.