

BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:

James West (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), Chair

Paul Edmiston (Chemistry)

Dean Fraga (Biology)

William Morgan (Biology)

Melissa Mullen Davis (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)

Erzsébet Regan (Biology)

Mark Snider (Chemistry)

Stephanie Strand (Biology)

This interdisciplinary program, jointly administered by faculty from the Departments of Biology and Chemistry, enables students to ask and explore fundamental questions concerning the molecular events that occur in organisms. Students who complete this program will possess an understanding of the structures of biological molecules, the reactions involved in biological energy conversions, the formation and organization of complex cellular structures, and the communication of biological information spatially and temporally.

Through its curriculum, the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Program seeks to develop students who:

- Possess a broad and fundamental understanding of biology and chemistry with particular focus on how molecules found in biological systems confer the properties of living organisms.
- Are able to perform the common methods and use the tools of the field including laboratory and computational techniques.
- Can conduct independent scientific investigation and scientific inquiry.
- Are able to locate, evaluate, and communicate scientific information effectively both by written and oral presentation.

Major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Consists of fifteen courses

- CHEM 11200
- One of the following courses: MATH 11100 (see note below), PHYS 11100, or PHYS 10700
- BIOL 11100
- BIOL 20100
- CHEM 21100
- CHEM 21200
- One of the following courses: CSCI 10000, CSCI 10200, or IDPT 20013
- BIOL 30500
- BIOL 30600
- BCMB 30300
- BCMB 33100
- One of the following courses: BCMB 33200, 33300, or CHEM 33400
- Junior Independent Study: BCMB 40100
- Senior Independent Study: BCMB 45100
- Senior Independent Study: BCMB 45200

Special Notes

- The MATH 11100 requirement may be fulfilled by successful completion of both MATH 10700 and 10800.
- There is no minor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.
- A student may not double major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with Biology, Chemistry, or Neuroscience.
- To complete the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major, students should follow the sequence below:

First Year: CHEM 11200 (and 11100, if needed) BIOL 11100, 20100

Sophomore Year: CHEM 21100, 21200

BIOL 30500, 30600

MATH 11100 (or 10700 and 10800), or PHYS 11100, or PHYS 10700

CSCI 10000, CSCI 10200, or IDPT 20013

Junior Year: BCMB 30300, 33100, and either 33200 or 33300 or
CHEM 33400
BCMB 40100

Senior Year: BCMB 45100, 45200

- A student who desires to replace a course listed above with a different course to count toward the major can petition the BCMB Curriculum Committee.
- A BCMB major who desires an American Chemical Society-Certified Biochemistry Degree is required to take the following courses in addition to the course requirements for the BCMB major: CHEM 21500, CHEM 31800, MATH 11200, and PHYS 11200. The A.C.S.-certified degree is encouraged for those students who plan to enter a graduate program in
- Required courses in the major, including Physics and Mathematics, must be passed with a grade of C- or higher. Courses in the major exceeding the number required in the major may be taken S/NC with permission of the instructor. All courses must be taken concurrently with the corresponding laboratory.
- All students are encouraged to broaden their perspective on the major by taking additional upper level Chemistry, Biology, and /or Biochemistry and Molecular Biology course

BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY COURSES

BCMB 30300. TECHNIQUES IN BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (Biology, Chemistry)

This laboratory-based course gives students hands-on experience with experimental methods used in bio-chemistry and molecular biology. It is organized around a semester-long project in which students design and work toward specific research goals. This course counts for major credit in Biology and Chemistry. BCMB majors are encouraged to have prior or concurrent enrollment in BCMB 33100. *Prerequisites:* C- or better in CHEM 11200 and BIOL 20100.

BCMB 33100. PRINCIPLES OF BIOCHEMISTRY (Biology, Chemistry)

This course focuses on the structural and chemical properties of the four main categories of biological molecules — amino acids, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, lipids — as a means of critically analyzing the functions of complex biological macromolecules and cellular processes at the molecular level. Structure, equilibria, thermodynamics, kinetics and reactivity of biological macromolecules, with emphasis on proteins and enzymes, are the course cornerstones. Principles of bioenergetics and intermediary metabolism (glycolysis, citric acid cycle, and oxidative phosphorylation) also discussed. Critical thinking and inquiry encouraged by analysis and discussion of current research literature. This course counts for major credit in Biology and Chemistry. Concurrent enrollment in BCMB 30300 highly recommended. Suggested previous courses: BIOL 30500 and 30600. *Prerequisite:* C- or better in CHEM 21200 and BIOL 20100 or by permission of instructor.

BCMB 33200. BIOCHEMISTRY OF METABOLISM (Biology, Chemistry)

A continuation of BCMB 331 with molecular and mechanistic emphasis on advanced cellular metabolism, metabolomics, signal transduction, as well as DNA, RNA and protein metabolism. Critical thinking and inquiry encouraged by analysis and discussion of current research literature. This course counts for major credit in Biology and Chemistry. *Prerequisite:* C- or better in BCMB 33100 or permission of instructor.

BCMB 33300. CHEMICAL BIOLOGY (Biology, Chemistry)

This course explores how chemistry can be utilized to examine and manipulate molecular events in biological systems. Specifically, the course is divided into different units, including proteomic profiling, enzyme activity profiling, metabolic engineering, and protein engineering. Critical thinking and inquiry encouraged by analysis and discussion of current research literature. This course counts for major credit in Biology and Chemistry. *Prerequisite:* C- or better in BCMB 33100 or permission of instructor.

CHEM 33400. BIOPHYSICAL CHEMISTR

This course examines the underlying physical principles and laws that govern the behavior of biological reactions. The fundamental principles of molecular structure, chemical kinetics, and thermodynamics are explored in relationship to biological phenomena. Three class hours per week. *Prerequisite:* MATH 11100 or 10800 and either BCMB 33100 or CHEM 31800 with a C- or better.

BCMB 40000. TUTORIAL

Special and advanced topics in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. Evaluation of the student's accomplishment will be based on a contract with the supervising professor. Students apply to the program chairperson for this option. This course does not count toward a major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. (.5 - 1 course credit) *Prerequisite:* The approval of both the supervising faculty member and the chairperson is required prior to registration.

BCMB 40100. INTRODUCTION TO INDEPENDENT STUDY

This course focuses on scientific writing, experimental design, and informational retrieval systems, including accessing and evaluating the growing collection of molecular databases. Students explore the literature related to their proposed senior I.S. thesis through a series of structured writing assignments that culminate in a research proposal for the senior project. In addition, students learn the mechanics of scientific presentations and give a brief seminar on their proposed project. *Prerequisite: C- or better in CHEM 21100 and C- or better in either BIOL 30500 or BIOL 30600 or permission of instructor.*

BCMB 410000. INTERNSHIP

A structured, usually off-campus experience, in which a student extends classroom knowledge to a work position within a community, business, or governmental organization. Student interns work and learn under the joint guidance of a host organization supervisor and a College of Wooster mentor. The student must arrange the internship in advance through the appropriate department or program. No more than six internships, and a maximum of four Wooster course credits, will count toward graduation. The form for registering for an internship and the Internship Learning Plan are available in the office of the Registrar. *(0.25-4 course credits) S/NC course. Prerequisite: The approval of a College of Wooster mentor, department chair, the faculty adviser, and the Associate Dean for Experiential Learning is required.*

BCMB 45100. SENIOR INDEPENDENT STUDY – SEMESTER ONE

An original investigation is conducted, culminating in a thesis and oral defense of the thesis in the second semester. During the year each student gives at least one research poster and oral presentation on the research topic. A student normally has one research adviser. *Prerequisite: C- or better in BCMB 40100.*

BCMB 45200. SENIOR INDEPENDENT STUDY – SEMESTER TWO

The thesis is evaluated by the research adviser and one other professor from the BCMB Curriculum Committee, in consultation with the other members of the BCMB Curriculum Committee. *Prerequisite: BCMB 45100.*