

BIOCHEMISTRY - BS

The undergraduate biochemistry curriculum is designed to provide a solid background in chemistry and the physical sciences, as well as in the biological sciences. Consequently, biochemistry is an especially versatile major giving undergraduates many options when they complete their BS degree. A biochemistry major provides a strong background for entering graduate school in a variety of fields, and the majority of biochemistry majors go on to graduate school or to professional schools such as medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry. Biochemistry majors excel in biomedical professional schools because of their strong background in the basic sciences. In addition, a wide variety of job opportunities is open to biochemistry majors with a BS degree. Many find rewarding careers working in laboratories as research scientists, forensic scientists and technicians in clinical, governmental and university laboratories. Biochemists are also employed by diverse companies in the chemical, pharmaceutical, agricultural, food and scientific equipment industries.

Program Requirements

First Year

Fall		Semester Credit Hours
BICH 101/ GENE 101	Perspectives in Biochemistry and Genetics ¹	1
CHEM 119	Fundamentals of Chemistry I	4
ENGL 104 or ENGL 103	Composition and Rhetoric or Introduction to Rhetoric and Composition	3
MATH 151 or MATH 171	Engineering Mathematics I or Calculus I	4
University Core Curriculum (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/) ²		3
Semester Credit Hours		15
Spring		
BIOL 111	Introductory Biology I	4
CHEM 120	Fundamentals of Chemistry II	4
MATH 152 or MATH 172	Engineering Mathematics II or Calculus II	4
General elective ³		3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Second Year

Fall		Semester Credit Hours
BIOL 112	Introductory Biology II	4
MATH 251	Engineering Mathematics III ²	3
Select one of the following: ¹		4
CHEM 227 & CHEM 237	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry Laboratory	
CHEM 257	Organic Chemistry I - Structure and Function	
Select one of the following:		3
COMM 203	Public Speaking	
COMM 205	Communication for Technical Professions	
COMM 243	Argumentation and Debate	

ENGL 203	Writing about Literature	
ENGL 210	Technical and Professional Writing	
General elective ³		1
Semester Credit Hours		15
Spring		
GENE 302 or GENE 303	Principles of Genetics ¹ or Fundamentals of Genetics	3
GENE 314	Principles of Genetics Laboratory ¹	1
PHYS 206 & PHYS 226	Newtonian Mechanics for Engineering and Science and Physics of Motion Laboratory for the Sciences	4
Select one of the following: ¹		4
CHEM 228 & CHEM 238	Organic Chemistry II and Organic Chemistry Laboratory	
CHEM 258	Organic Chemistry II - Reactivity and Applications	
University Core Curriculum (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/) ²		3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Third Year		Semester Credit Hours
Fall		
BICH 404	Biochemical Calculations ¹	2
BICH 440	Biochemistry I ¹	3
BICH 491	Research ¹	1
PHYS 207 & PHYS 227	Electricity and Magnetism for Engineering and Science and Electricity and Magnetism Laboratory for the Sciences	4
University Core Curriculum (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/) ²		3
General elective ³		2
Semester Credit Hours		15

Spring		Semester Credit Hours
BICH 441	Biochemistry II ¹	3
BICH 414 or BICH 432/ GENE 432	Biochemical Techniques I ¹ or Laboratory in Molecular Genetics	2
BICH 491	Research ¹	1
CHEM 327	Physical Chemistry I	3
University Core Curriculum (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/) ²		3
General elective ³		3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Fourth Year		Semester Credit Hours
Fall		
BICH 431/ GENE 431	Molecular Genetics ¹	3
BICH 491	Research ¹	1
BIOL 351	Fundamentals of Microbiology	4
CHEM 328	Physical Chemistry II	3

University Core Curriculum (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/) ²	3
Semester Credit Hours	14
Spring	
BICH 491 Research ^{1,4}	1
University Core Curriculum (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/) ²	6
Biochemistry elective ⁵	6
General elective ³	3
Semester Credit Hours	16
Total Semester Credit Hours	120

¹ Must make a grade of C or better.

² To be selected from the University Core Curriculum (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/>). Of the 21 hours shown as University Core Curriculum (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/>) electives, 3 must be from language, philosophy and culture, 3 from creative arts, 3 from social and behavioral sciences, 6 from American history, 6 from POLS 206 and POLS 207. The graduation requirements include a requirement for 3 hours of International and Cultural Diversity (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/international-cultural-diversity-requirements/>) courses and 3 hours of Cultural Discourse (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/cultural-discourse-requirements/>) courses which may be met by courses satisfying the Core Curriculum requirements if they are also on the approved list of international and cultural diversity courses.

³ Select from any course 100-499 not used elsewhere (except BICH 303, BICH 410-412 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/bich/>); MATH 100-104, 131-148 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/math/>)). Often used for a minor. Students intending to pursue an advanced degree in biochemistry are strongly encouraged to use some free electives for additional upper division courses in BICH (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/bich/>), GENE (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/gene/>), BIOL (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/biol/>), CHEM (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/chem/>), MATH (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/math/>) or STAT (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/stat/>).

⁴ The fourth registered hour of research must be taken as writing intensive.

⁵ Hours to be selected from any 400-level course in Biochemistry with approval of student's academic advisor. BICH 404, BICH 414, BICH 431/GENE 431, BICH 432/GENE 432, BICH 440, BICH 441, or BICH 491 may not be used to satisfy this requirement.