Biochemistry and Biotechnology

General Information

Degrees

Biochemistry and Biotechnology provides academic programs leading to the undergraduate B.S. degree or the graduate M.S. degree in Biochemistry and Biotechnology. These degrees are offered in cooperation with the Department of Biology and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Faculty members in this program are engaged in teaching and research in areas such as biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology, and cell biology. Majors have the opportunity through coursework, laboratories, seminars, and research experience to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to enter the workforce or to go on with further graduate education.

Career Outlook

The emerging Biotechnology sector is increasing the regional and national demand for workers with significant training in molecular biology, biochemistry, and genetics. The St. Louis metropolitan area has long been a major center for biochemistry and biotechnology, and in the past decade it has become a national hub for life sciences research and development activity. A degree in Biochemistry and Biotechnology provides students with the training they need to become part of the broad biotechnology and life sciences industries.

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Biochemistry and Biotechnology BS

Biochemistry and Biotechnology BS/MS Dual Degree Program

Biochemistry and Biotechnology MS

Biochemistry and Biotechnology MS, Professional Emphasis

BIOL 1831 Introductory Biology: From Molecules to Organisms (MOTR BIOL 150L): 5 semester hours
Prerequisites: A minimum of high school chemistry and MATH 1030; ENGL 1100 or equivalent (may be taken concurrently). Required for students intending to major in biology or take specified biology courses at the 2000 level or above. This course presents and introduction to some of the principles of biology and scientific methodology applied to the molecular/ cellular through organ system levels of organization. Topics include: cell structure, metabolism, reproduction, heredity and major physiological processes regulated by organ systems. Three hours of lecture, three and one half hours of lab, and one hour of discussion per week.

BIOL 2012 Genetics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 1831, MATH 1030, and CHEM 1111. This course covers the fundamental principles of inheritance, including classical genetic theory as well as recent advances in the molecular basis of heredity. It is three (3) hours of lecture per week.

BIOL 2013 Genetics Laboratory: 2 semester hours
Prerequisites: Concurrent registration in BIOL 2012, or consent of instructor. Laboratory to accompany BIOL 2012. Three and one-half hours of organized laboratory time per week. Students may need to return to the laboratory at unscheduled times to complete some exercises.

BIOL 2482 Microbiology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 1831 (majors must also take BIOL 1821), MATH 1030, and CHEM 1111. Study of microorganisms, their metabolism, genetics, and their interaction with other forms of life. Three hours of lecture per week.

BIOL 2483 Microbiology Laboratory: 2 semester hours
Prerequisite: BIOL 2482 (may be taken concurrently). Experimental studies and procedures of microbiological techniques. Three and one-half hours of organized laboratory time per week. Students will need to return to the laboratory at unscheduled times to complete some exercises.

BIOL 3622 Cell Biology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 1831, BIOL 2012, CHEM 1111, and MATH 1030. This course examines the organization and basic processes of cells including tissues, organelles, glycolysis, respiration, photosynthesis, trafficking, cytoskeleton, signal transduction, and cell division.

BIOL 3699 Undergraduate Internship in Biotechnology: 1-4 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 1821, BIOL 1831, and CHEM 1111 and CHEM 1121 and consent of instructor. Concurrent enrollment in CHEM 2612 or higher is strongly encouraged. A 2.5 GPA and enrollment in the undergraduate Biotechnology Certificate Program is required. Internship will consist of a period of observation, experimentation and on-the-job training in a biotechnology laboratory. The laboratory may be industrial or academic. Credit will be determined by the number of hours a student works each week and in consultation between the intern's supervisor and instructor. Internship assignments will be commensurate with the education and experience of the student. Two credits may be used to fulfill the lab requirement.

BIOL 4442 Developmental Biology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012 and BIOL 3622. A study of the basic principles that shape the embryonic and post-embryonic development of animals with an emphasis on the underlying cellular and molecular mechanisms. Specific topics include fertilization, determination of cell fate and differentiation, cell migration, establishment of the body plan, formation of selected organs and organ systems, stem cells, and limb regeneration. Environmental influences on development and the impact of developmental biology on modern medicine are also discussed. Three hours of lecture/discussion per week. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 4442 and BIOL 6442.

BIOL 4550 Bacterial Pathogenesis: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012 and BIOL 2482. Examination of the strategies bacterial pathogens use to infect animals. Topics include host immune responses to infection, bacterial virulence factors, regulation of bacterial virulence, and the cellular and molecular approaches used to study host-parasite interactions. Three hours of lecture per week. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 4550 and BIOL 6550.

BIOL 4602 Molecular Biology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012 and CHEM 2612. This course is a survey of the principles of molecular biology, with emphasis on understanding the genetic regulation of DNA, RNA, and protein synthesis and function in eukaryotic cells.
BIOL 4608 Synthetic Biology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012, BIOL 2482. A study of the molecular biology of microbial cells, in the context of synthetic biological systems. Topics include DNA replication, transcription, translation, gene regulation and protein structure as well as aspects of genetic engineering as they apply to the construction of novel biological systems. Following an introduction to the design of biological parts used in synthetic biology, students read, discuss and present recent journal articles in order to learn about current advances and applications of synthetic biology. Three hours of lecture per week. Students may not receive credit for BIOL 4608 and BIOL 6608.

BIOL 4614 Biotechnology Laboratory I: 4 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012 or consent of instructor. An introduction to the fundamental concepts that underlie the field of biotechnology. Both the basic principles of molecular biology and hand-on experience with the techniques of the field will be addressed through lectures, discussions, and a series of laboratory exercises. Two hours of lecture and four hours of laboratory per week. Fulfills a laboratory requirement only; may not be used to fulfill the higher level (4000-5000) lecture course requirement for the B.A. or B.S. degree in biology. Students may not receive credit for BIOL 4614 and a comparable biotechnology course from another institution.

BIOL 4615 Biotechnology Laboratory II: 4 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 4614 and either BIOL 4602 or BIOL 4732 or CHEM 4712, or consent of instructor. This course is an in-depth look at theory and practice of biotechnology. Lectures and discussion will examine the underlying principles, and laboratory exercises will present hands-on experience with current techniques. The course entails one hour of lecture and six hours of laboratory per week. It fulfills a laboratory requirement only and may not be used to fulfill the higher level (4000-5000) lecture course requirement for the B.A. or B.S. degree in Biology. Students may not receive credit for BIOL 4615 and BIOL 6615.

BIOL 4622 Cellular Basis of Disease: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 3622. A study of the structural organization and processes of eukaryotic cells, focusing on how defects in cellular function lead to genetic diseases and cancer. Topics of discussion may include membrane dynamics, intracellular trafficking, signal transduction, and the cell cycle. Three hours of lecture per week. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 4622 and BIOL 6622.

BIOL 4632 Nucleic Acid Structure and Function: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012 and BIOL 4732 or equivalent, or consent of instructor. A comprehensive view of the structural properties of DNA and RNA that promote molecular interactions and biological function. Topics will include the physical properties of nucleic acids, the formation and biological importance of higher order structures, RNA enzymatic activities, nucleic acid-protein interactions, and RNA metabolism. Three hours of lecture per week. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 4632 and BIOL 6632.

BIOL 4642 Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012, BIOL 3622. This course will introduce molecular biology principles that govern plant growth, development, and responses to stress. This course integrates the experimental approaches of genetics, molecular biology, and biochemistry, with a specific focus on biotechnology techniques and applications. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 4642 and BIOL 6642.

BIOL 4652 Virology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: BIOL 2012 and BIOL 3622. This first half of the course entails a comparative study of the structure, replication, and molecular biology of viruses. The second half of the course focuses on the pathogenesis, control, and evolution of animal viruses. Three hours of lecture per week. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 4652 and BIOL 6652.

BIOL 4797 Biochemistry and Biotechnology Seminar: 1 semester hour
Same as CHEM 4797. Prerequisites: Senior standing in the Biochemistry and Biotechnology program and consent of faculty advisor. This course will focus on selected publications related to biochemistry and biotechnology from both refereed journals and news sources. Students are expected to participate in discussions and to prepare oral and written presentations. Completion of the Major Field Achievement Test in Biochemistry & Biotechnology is a course requirement. May not be taken for graduate credit.

BIOL 4822 Introduction to Neuroscience: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: BIOL 3802 or consent of instructor. The study of nervous systems, featuring the cellular bases of initiation and conduction of the impulse, synaptic transmission, and the network integrative function of invertebrate and vertebrate nervous systems. This course emphasizes the multidisciplinary nature of the neurosciences, including anatomical, physiological and molecular approaches to understanding neural function. Three hours of lecture per week.

BIOL 4842 Immunobiology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: BIOL 3622 and CHEM 2612. The fundamental principles and concepts of immunology and immunobiology. Emphasis on the relation of immunological phenomena to biological phenomena and biological problems. Three hours lecture per week.

BIOL 4905 Research: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of faculty research advisor. Research in an area selected by the student in consultation with and under the direct supervision of an UMSL biology faculty research advisor. Research opportunities are subject to availability and must be approved in advance of beginning research. The project may include the reading of pertinent literature, laboratory or field experience, including keeping of a logbook, and a summary paper and a presentation, all based on an average 8 hours per week per credit during a 15 week semester at the discretion of the instructor. Credit arranged. Course may be repeated for a total of up to 5 credit hours. A maximum of one lab requirement may be satisfied using any two BIOL 4905 credits. Additional credits may be applied toward the total biology hours required for the biology BA or BS. May not be taken for graduate credit.

BIOL 4920 Selected Topics in Biology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Junior standing and consent of instructor. The topic for this course will vary each semester. Topics offered for the following semester will be posted in the departmental office. This course may be repeated once if the topic is different.

BIOL 5012 Advanced Genetics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012 or consent of instructor. This course explores advanced topics in the study of genetics, including advanced principles of inheritance, classical genetic theory, advances in understanding the nature of genetic material, and the molecular basis of heredity. Variation between individuals and populations will be considered to emphasize the effects of genetics on both medical and evolutionary questions. A particular focus will be placed on identifying, analyzing, and communicating findings from recent primary literature.
BIOL 5069 Topics in Cellular and Molecular Biology: 1 semester hour
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Presentation and discussion of student and faculty research projects and/or current research articles in molecular, cellular and developmental biology. May be repeated. Course graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

BIOL 5436 Advanced Applied Bioinformatics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 4732 or BIOL 4602 or consent of instructor. This course provides an advanced foundation in using various computational approaches to solve biological problems. Specific attention focuses on methods for using and interpreting information from biological databases, analyzing biological sequence information, and making functional and structural predictions. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 4436 and BIOL 5436.

BIOL 5798 Practicum in Science in Business: 1-2 semester hours
Same as CHEM 5798. Prerequisites: Graduate standing and enrollment in a Professional Science emphasis in Chemistry, Biochemistry & Biotechnology, or Biology. Students will integrate and apply their scientific expertise to a practical, business-related problem. The course will emphasize interdisciplinary teamwork as well as both written and oral communication skills.

BIOL 5799 Internship in Sciences in Business: 1-2 semester hours
Same as CHEM 5799. Prerequisites: Graduate standing and enrollment in a Professional Science emphasis area in Chemistry, Biochemistry & Biotechnology, or Biology. The internship will consist of a period of on-the-job training at a local company. Credit hours will be determined by the number of hours the student works each week and in consultation between the intern's supervisor and the course instructor. Internship assignments will be commensurate with the education and experience of the student, with an emphasis on work at the interface between the scientific and business components of the company. A written report describing the internship project is required.

BIOL 6550 Advanced Bacterial Pathogenesis: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012 and BIOL 2482. Examination of the strategies of bacterial pathogens used to infect animals. Topics include host immune responses to infection, bacterial virulence factors, regulation of bacterial virulence, and the cellular and molecular approaches used to study host-parasite interactions. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 6550 and BIOL 4550. Students will be required to give an oral presentation and/or write an extra paper on a topic relevant to the course. Three hours of lecture per week.

BIOL 6602 Advanced Molecular Biology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012 and CHEM 2612, or consent of instructor. This course covers advanced principles of molecular biology, with an emphasis on primary literature. Students may be required to give an oral presentation and/or write papers on a topic relevant to the course. Students may not receive graduate credit for both BIOL 4602 and BIOL 6602.

BIOL 6608 Advanced Synthetic Biology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012, BIOL 2482. A study of the molecular biology of microbial cells, in the context of synthetic biological systems. Topics include DNA replication, transcription, translation, gene regulation and protein structure as well as aspects of genetic engineering as they apply to the construction of novel biological systems. Following an introduction to the design of biological parts used in synthetic biology, students read, discuss and present recent journal articles in order to learn about current advances and applications of synthetic biology. Three hours of lecture per week. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 4608 and BIOL 6608.

BIOL 6615 Advanced Biotechnology Laboratory II: 4 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 4602 or BIOL 4732 or CHEM 4712, or consent of instructor. This course is an advanced analysis of the theory and practice of biotechnology. Lectures and discussion will examine the underlying principles, and laboratory exercises will present hands-on experience with current techniques. It entails one hour of lecture and six hours of laboratory per week. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 6615 and BIOL 4615.

BIOL 6622 Advanced Cellular Basis of Disease: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 3622, or consent of instructor. A study of the structural organization and processes of eukaryotic cells, focusing on how defects in cellular function lead to genetic diseases and cancer. Topics of discussion may include membrane dynamics, intracellular trafficking, signal transduction, and the cell cycle. Three hours of lecture per week. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 6622 and BIOL 4622.

BIOL 6632 Advanced Nucleic Acid Structure and Function: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012 and BIOL 4732 or equivalent, or consent of instructor. A comprehensive view of the structural properties of DNA and RNA that promote molecular interactions & biological function. Topics will include the physical properties of nucleic acids, the formation and biological importance of higher order structures, RNA enzymatic activities, nucleic acid-protein interactions, and RNA metabolism. Three hours of lecture and one hour of discussion per week. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 4632 and BIOL 6632.

BIOL 6642 Advanced Plant Biology and Biotechnology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012 and BIOL 2482, or consent of instructor. A study of the structural biology principles that govern plant growth, development, and responses to stress. This course integrates the experimental approaches of genetics, molecular biology, and biochemistry, with a specific focus on biotechnology techniques and applications. Student may not receive credit for both BIOL 4642 and BIOL 6642.

BIOL 6652 Advanced Virology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2012, BIOL 3622, and graduate standing. This first half of the course entails a comparative study of the structure, replication, and molecular biology of viruses. The second half of the course focuses on the pathogenesis, control, and evolution of animal viruses. Three hours of lecture, one hour of discussion or seminar per week. Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 4652 and BIOL 6652.

BIOL 6699 Graduate Internship in Biotechnology: 1-4 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and enrollment in graduate Biotechnology Certificate Program. 6 credit hours maximum (maximum of 8 combined credit hours of BIOL 6905 and internship) Internship will consist of period of observation, experimentation and on-the-job training in biotechnology laboratory. The laboratory may be industrial or academic. Credit will be determined by the number of hours the student works each week and in consultation between the intern's supervisor and the instructor. Internship assignments will be commensurate with the education and experience of the student.

BIOL 6889 Graduate Seminar: 2 semester hours
Presentation and discussion of various research problems in biology. Graduate student exposure to the seminar process.

BIOL 6905 Graduate Research in Biology: 1-10 semester hours
Research in area selected by student in consultation with faculty members.
A reading and seminar course in selected advanced topics. 

CHEM 4814 Special Topics in Chemistry: 1-10 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor and library study, in conjunction with faculty member, of fundamental problems in chemistry. A written report describing the research is required.
CHEM 4897 Seminar in Chemistry: 2 semester hours
Prerequisites: CHEM 3022 and senior standing. This course will provide students with the opportunity to listen to talks presented by students, faculty, and invited speakers. Students must complete a comprehensive examination before the end of the course. Chemistry majors should enroll during the semester in which they intend to graduate, or during their next-to-last semester before graduation.

CHEM 5212 Advanced Instrumental Analysis: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor. This course covers the principles and applications of modern methods of instrumental analysis for analytical chemistry measurements. Topics may be selected from, but are not limited to, the areas of electrochemistry, absorption and emission spectroscopy, chromatography, mass spectrometry, surface analysis, and nuclear magnetic resonance. Additional independent study and work are required. Students may not receive credit for both CHEM 4212 and CHEM 5212.

CHEM 5294 Special Topics in Analytical Chemistry: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. This course covers topics in analytical chemistry that may change from semester to semester, and more than one course or topic may be offered in a given semester. Topics may be selected from the areas of chromatography, mass spectrometry, analytical spectroscopy, thermal analysis, X-ray diffraction, surface analysis, magnetism, ion-exchange, size-exclusion chromatography, or other topics in modern analytical chemistry. The course may be taken more than once for credit provided that topic(s) are different in each case.

CHEM 5302 Foundations of Physical Chemistry: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. A survey of fundamental and advanced topics in physical chemistry including thermodynamics, kinetics, quantum chemistry, and spectroscopy. Three hours of lecture per week. Additional independent study work is required. Students may not receive credit for both CHEM 4302 and CHEM 5302.

CHEM 5394 Special Topics in Physical Chemistry: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. The topic for this course may change from semester to semester, and more than one course or topic can be offered in a given semester. The course may be taken more than once for credit provided that the topic is different in each case. The course can have more than one instructor.

CHEM 5494 Special Topics in Inorganic Chemistry: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. The topic for this course may change from semester to semester, and more than one course or topic can be offered in a given semester. The course may be taken more than once for credit provided that the topic is different in each case. The course can have more than one instructor.

CHEM 5612 Advanced Organic Chemistry II - Reactions And Synthesis: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: CHEM 2622. This course will examine a variety of organic transformations typically utilized in organic synthesis. Topics will include carbon-carbon bond formation, pericyclic reactions, oxidation, reduction, and functional group interconversions. Mechanism and stereochemistry will be emphasized. Three hours of lecture per week.

CHEM 5694 Special Topics in Organic Chemistry: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. The topic for this course may change from semester to semester, and more than one course or topic can be offered in a given semester. The course may be taken more than once for credit provided that the topic is different in each case. The course can have more than one instructor.

CHEM 5774 Bioinformatics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: CHEM 4712 or equivalent. This course introduces modern approaches in bioinformatics and computational biochemistry. Topics to be covered include a survey of biological databases, predictions from protein and DNA sequences, sequence alignment and sequence database searches, building phylogenetic trees, three-dimensional protein structure prediction, molecular modeling and simulation, and computational genomics. Additional independent study work is required. Students may not receive credit for both CHEM 4774 and CHEM 5774.

CHEM 5794 Special Topics in Biochemistry: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. The topic for this course may change from semester to semester, and more than one course or topic can be offered in a given semester. The course may be taken more than once for credit provided that the topic is different in each case. The course can have more than one instructor.

CHEM 5798 Practicum in Science in Business: 1-2 semester hours
Same as: BIOL 5798. Prerequisites: Graduate standing and enrollment in a Professional Science emphasis in Chemistry, Biochemistry & Biotechnology, or Biology. Students will integrate and apply their scientific expertise to a practical, business-related problem. The course will emphasize interdisciplinary team-work as well as both written and oral communication skills.
CHEM 5799 Internship in Science in Business: 1-2 semester hours
Same as: BIOL 5799. Prerequisites: Graduate standing and enrollment in a Professional Science emphasis area in Chemistry, Biochemistry & Biotechnology, or Biology. The internship will consist of period of on-the-job training at a local company. Credit hours will be determined by the number of hours the student works each week and in consultation between the intern’s supervisor and the course instructor. Internship assignments will be commensurate with the education and experience of the student, with an emphasis on work at the interface between the scientific and business components of the company. A written report describing the internship project is required.

CHEM 6787 Problem Seminar in Biochemistry: 1 semester hour
Prerequisite: Consent of the biochemistry staff. Problems from the current literature, presentations and discussions by faculty, students and visiting scientists. Ph.D. students may take more than once for credit. Up to three credits may be applied to the M.S. degree program.

CHEM 6897 Chemistry Colloquium: 1 semester hour
This course consists of presentations of papers by faculty and invited speakers. It meets for one hour per week.

CHEM 6905 Graduate Research in Chemistry: 1-10 semester hours