

BIOCHEMISTRY, MS

Biochemistry is the study of biological molecules, their roles in the cell, and the chemistry of their reactions in living systems. The Integrated Program in Biochemistry (IPiB) is the merged graduate program between the Department of Biochemistry (in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences) and the Department of Biomolecular Chemistry (in the School of Medicine and Public Health). The program trains the next generation of biochemists and prepares them for 21st-century challenges in science. IPiB offers a PhD degree with a major in biochemistry. Although an MS degree is officially offered, students are not admitted for a terminal master's degree.

From atoms and cells to plants and animals, biochemistry research in IPiB is at the forefront of modern science. We are home to around 100 graduate students and 50 world-class faculty pursuing cutting-edge research in all areas of biochemistry, including: cell and developmental biology, chemical biology, endocrinology, enzymology, immunology, metabolism, molecular genetics, molecular medicine, physical biochemistry and biophysics, quantitative biology, structural biology, systems and synthetic biology, and virology. The program teaches critical thinking skills, applicable to a wide range of professional fields that students pursue after graduation.

The size and breadth of IPiB provide unique opportunities for graduate students who want to pursue a degree in one of the top biochemistry graduate programs in the nation. Our modern facilities are filled with labs carrying out groundbreaking research in a collaborative, friendly, and inspirational atmosphere. Welcome to IPiB and we hope that you can share our enthusiasm for the biochemical sciences!

DUAL DEGREES

The program participates with the School of Medicine and Public Health in offering a dual degree program for students wishing to complete both the MD and PhD degrees. For the prerequisites and degree requirements for the MD degree, as well as the online application form, see Medical Scientist Training Program (<http://mstp.med.wisc.edu/>).

ADMISSIONS

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Prospective students may not apply directly to this program. The Biochemistry MS is offered for work leading to the PhD.

This is a non-admitting MS program. Interested students should see the admissions information for the Biochemistry PhD (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/biochemistry/biochemistry-phd/>).

FUNDING

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GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

The Bursar's Office provides information about tuition and fees associated with being a graduate student. Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information is available from the Graduate School.

Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

IPiB students receive a full stipend (<https://ipib.wisc.edu/education/financial-support/>) as well as tuition remission and comprehensive health insurance. The stipend rates can be found here (<https://ipib.wisc.edu/financial-support/>) and can take the form of traineeships, research assistantships, or fellowships, and are guaranteed for all IPiB PhD candidates in good academic standing and making satisfactory research progress. IPiB also assists its graduate students with outstanding academic records in competing for university or national awards.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirementstext>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiestext>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail

Minimum 48 credits
Credit Requirement

Minimum 42 credits
Residence
Credit Requirement

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	48 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).
Other Grade Requirements	n/a
Assessments and Examinations	Upon completion of the Graduate School and program minimum requirements for a master's degree, the student's thesis committee will determine whether or not to confer the degree.
Language Requirements	n/a

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Program Course Requirements		
BIOCHEM 719	From Atoms to Molecules	3
BIOCHEM/ BMOLCHEM 701	Responsible Conduct in Bioscience Research	2
BMOLCHEM 720	Experimental Design and Paradigms in Cellular Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	3
BIOCHEM 721	Biochemical Communication	2
Research Requirements		30
BIOCHEM 990	Research	
BMOLCHEM 990	Advanced Biomolecular Chemistry and Research	
Breadth Requirement		
Students must complete a minimum of two additional graduate-level (Grad 50%) courses from the following list of didactic or laboratory courses in order to fulfill their breadth requirements, and a minimum of 6 total credits is required. In consultation with their committee, students must complete courses from at least 2 of the following categories: physical sciences, biological sciences, or quantitative sciences. One-credit seminars do not count toward the breadth requirements.		6
NUTR SCI/ BIOCHEM 510	Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism	
BIOCHEM/ M M & I 575	Biology of Viruses	
BIOCHEM 601	Protein and Enzyme Structure and Function	
BIOCHEM/B M I/ BMOLCHEM/ MATH 609	Mathematical Methods for Systems Biology	
BIOCHEM/ GENETICS/ MICROBIO 612	Prokaryotic Molecular Biology	
BIOCHEM/ NUTR SCI 619	Advanced Nutrition: Intermediary Metabolism of Macronutrients	

BIOCHEM/ GENETICS/ MD GENET 620	Eukaryotic Molecular Biology
BIOCHEM/ BOTANY 621	Plant Biochemistry
BIOCHEM 625	Mechanisms of Action of Vitamins and Minerals
BIOCHEM/ NUTR SCI 645	Molecular Control of Metabolism and Metabolic Disease
CHEM 665	Biophysical Chemistry
MICROBIO/ BMOLCHEM 668	Microbiology at Atomic Resolution
BMOLCHEM 675	Advanced or Special Topics in Biomolecular Chemistry
BIOCHEM/ CHEM 704	Chemical Biology
BIOCHEM 729	Advanced Topics (IPiB Seminar, Practicum in Undergraduate Teaching, or Responsible Conduct of Research)
F&W ECOL/ STAT 571	Statistical Methods for Bioscience I
NEURODPT/ NTP 610	Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience
MED PHYS/ B M E/PHMCOL- M/PHYSICS/ RADIOL 619	Microscopy of Life
GENETICS/ CHEM 626	Genomic Science
CRB 630	Proteomics Approaches for Biologists
CRB 640	Fundamentals of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology
ONCOLOGY/ M M & I/ PL PATH 640	General Virology-Multiplication of Viruses
MICROBIO 657	Bioinformatics for Microbiologists
CHEM 668	Biophysical Spectroscopy
ONCOLOGY 673	Purification and Characterization of Protein and Protein Complexes
NEURODPT 675	Selected Topics in Physiology (Ion Channels Seminar)
ONCOLOGY 703	Carcinogenesis and Tumor Cell Biology
PATH 750	Cellular and Molecular Biology/Pathology
PATH 751	Biology of Aging
B M I/ COMP SCI 776	Advanced Bioinformatics
ONCOLOGY 778	Bioinformatics for Biologists
B M E 780	Methods in Quantitative Biology
PHMCOL-M 781	Molecular and Cellular Principles in Pharmacology
B M E/CBE 783	Design of Biological Molecules

B M I 826	Special Topics in Biostatistics and Biomedical Informatics
BOTANY 860	Plant Cell Biology
GENETICS 885	Advanced Genomic and Proteomic Analysis
BIOCHEM/ CHEM 872	Selected Topics in Macromolecular and Biophysical Chemistry
LSC 875	Special Topics

Seminars

MS candidates must successfully complete at least one advanced 1-credit seminar per year of graduate study. Students select 1-credit seminars in consultation with their committee.

Any numbered 900 BIOCHEM or BMOLCHEM Seminar

Total Credits **48**

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) serve as the official document of record for Graduate School academic and administrative policies and procedures and are updated continuously. Note some policies redirect to entries in the official UW-Madison Policy Library (<https://policy.wisc.edu/>). Programs may set more stringent policies than the Graduate School. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

For well-prepared advanced students, the program may accept up to 6 credits of prior graduate coursework from an uncompleted degree from other institutions towards the minimum graduate degree credit and minimum graduate coursework (Grad 50%) requirement. The minimum graduate residence credit requirement can be satisfied only with courses taken as a graduate student at UW-Madison.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

No undergraduate credits earned at other institutions or at UW-Madison are allowed to transfer toward the graduate degree.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison

No credits taken as a University Special student are allowed to transfer toward the graduate degree.

PROBATION

Refer to the Graduate School: Probation (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/>) policy.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Every graduate student must have a faculty thesis advisor in the program. The thesis advisor advises the student about coursework, supervises the student's research, and acts as a mentor to the student through the student's graduate career. The thesis advisor must approve the student's coursework before registration for a given semester and must also approve any subsequent changes to it.

A PhD thesis committee is composed of at least four graduate university faculty members, including the thesis advisor. The thesis committee is empowered by the program to advise the student about certification, administer the preliminary examination, oversee annual progress reports, approve thesis composition, and conduct the final PhD examination.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

12 credits

TIME LIMITS

Refer to the Graduate School: Time Limits (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/>) policy.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employee disabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departamental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences: Grievance Policy

In the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS), any student who feels unfairly treated by a member of the CALS faculty or staff has the right to complain about the treatment and to receive a prompt hearing. Some complaints may arise from misunderstandings or communication breakdowns and be easily resolved; others may require formal action. Complaints may concern any matter of perceived unfairness.

To ensure a prompt and fair hearing of any complaint, and to protect the rights of both the person complaining and the person at whom the complaint is directed, the following procedures are used in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Any student, undergraduate or graduate, may use these procedures, except employees whose complaints are covered under other campus policies.

1. The student should first talk with the person at whom the complaint is directed. Most issues can be settled at this level. Others may be resolved by established departmental procedures.
2. If the student is unsatisfied, and the complaint involves any unit outside CALS, the student should seek the advice of the dean or director of that unit to determine how to proceed.
 - a. If the complaint involves an academic department in CALS the student should proceed in accordance with item 3 below.
 - b. If the grievance involves a unit in CALS that is not an academic department, the student should proceed in accordance with item 4 below.
3. The student should contact the department's grievance advisor within 120 calendar days of the alleged unfair treatment. The departmental administrator can provide this person's name. The grievance advisor will attempt to resolve the problem informally within 10 working days of receiving the complaint, in discussions with the student and the person at whom the complaint is directed.
 - a. If informal mediation fails, the student can submit the grievance in writing to the grievance advisor within 10 working days of the date the student is informed of the failure of the mediation attempt by the grievance advisor. The grievance advisor will provide a copy to the person at whom the grievance is directed.
 - b. The grievance advisor will refer the complaint to a department committee that will obtain a written response from the person at whom the complaint is directed, providing a copy to the student. Either party may request a hearing before the committee. The grievance advisor will provide both parties a written decision within 20 working days from the date of receipt of the written complaint.
 - c. If the grievance involves the department chairperson, the grievance advisor or a member of the grievance committee, these persons may not participate in the review.
 - d. If not satisfied with departmental action, either party has 10 working days from the date of notification of the departmental committee action to file a written appeal to the CALS Equity and Diversity Committee. A subcommittee of this committee will make a preliminary judgement as to whether the case merits further investigation and review. If the subcommittee unanimously determines that the case does not merit further investigation and review, its decision is final. If one or more members of the subcommittee determine that the case does merit further investigation and review, the subcommittee will investigate and seek to resolve the dispute through mediation. If this mediation attempt fails, the subcommittee will bring the case to the full committee. The committee may seek additional information

from the parties or hold a hearing. The committee will present a written recommendation to the dean who will provide a final decision within 20 working days of receipt of the committee recommendation.

4. If the alleged unfair treatment occurs in a CALS unit that is not an academic department, the student should, within 120 calendar days of the alleged incident, take his/her grievance directly to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. The dean will attempt to resolve the problem informally within 10 working days of receiving the complaint. If this mediation attempt does not succeed the student may file a written complaint with the dean who will refer it to the CALS Equity and Diversity Committee. The committee will seek a written response from the person at whom the complaint is directed, subsequently following other steps delineated in item 3d above.

OTHER

Students may matriculate only in the fall semester, and a master's degree is not offered as a terminal degree.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Gain a broad understanding of the biochemical principles that underlie all biological processes.
2. Become aware of the current limitations of the state of understanding of this discipline and the strategies that are required to advance the field.
3. Formulate and design new approaches that extend and apply biochemical principles beyond their current boundaries.
4. Explore career development opportunities in industry, government and academia to realize professional goals and paths.
5. Develop teaching and mentoring skills in both lecture and laboratory settings.
6. Foster professional and ethical conduct in the sciences, including but not limited to: exposition of the scientific method; ethical design of experimental protocols; reproducibility in science; professional behavior in industrial, government, and academic settings; documentation of scientific results; communication to other scientists and the public; peer review; and confidentiality.