Biochemistry is a very broad science that studies the molecules and chemistry of life. Biochemistry focuses on the structure, properties, and interactions of molecules such as proteins, nucleic acids, sugars and lipids. Biochemistry's aim is to understand how these molecules participate in the processes that support the various functions of the living cell. These studies are therefore essential for understanding disease and finding cures, for improving agriculture and the production of food and biofuels, and to produce innovation in biotechnology.

Whereas other biological science majors may focus on cellular, organismal or population level biology, biochemistry focuses on processes that occur at the molecular to cellular levels. Therefore, this major has a greater focus on basic and quantitative sciences, such as math and, particularly, on chemistry.

Biochemistry graduates go on to a variety of careers in science and science-related fields. The major is designed to fit the needs of the student who wishes to achieve bachelor’s-level training as well as those planning to pursue graduate or professional study. The degree serves as an excellent background for medical school or veterinary school admission, as well as for graduate study in biochemistry or other allied fields (biology, bacteriology, genetics, molecular biology, or oncology).

**DEGREES/MAJORS/CERTIFICATES**

- Biochemistry, B.S. (CALS) (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/biochemistry/biochemistry-bs/)

**PEOPLE**

**PROFESSORS**

Amasino, Rick  
Attie, Alan  
Bednarek, Sebastian  
Butcher, Sam  
Cox, Mike  
Craig, Elizabeth  
Fox, Brian (Chair)  
Friesen, Paul  
Henzler-Wildman, Katie  
Holden, Hazel  
Kimble, Judith  
Landick, Bob  
Ntambi, James  
Palmenberg, Ann  
Ralph, John  
Rayment, Ivan  
Record, Tom  
Rienstra, Chad  
Senes, Alessandro  
Sussman, Mike  
Wright, Elizabeth

**ASSISTANT PROFESSORS**

Raman, Vatsan

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**

Cantor, Jason  
Coyle, Scott  
Grant, Tim  
Kirchdoerfer, Robert  
Lim, Ci Ji  
Romero, Phil  
Simcox, Judith  
Venturelli, Ophelia  
Weeks, Amy

**ASSOCIATE FACULTY**

Pennella, Mario  
Shu, Erica

**ACADEMIC ADVISORS**

Biochemistry & Microbiology Undergraduate Advising Hub (https://biochemmicrobio.wisc.edu/advising/)
For more information, see the Department of Bacteriology directory (https://bact.wisc.edu/people.php).