

Biochemistry

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Science

Nature of Program

The biochemistry curriculum prepares students for careers requiring a strong background in basic principles of the physical and life sciences. The program is a collaborative effort between the Division of Animal and Nutritional Sciences in the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, and the Departments of Biology and Chemistry in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences.

Students completing a biochemistry major are prepared for professional employment in the expanding fields of agricultural and environmental sciences, chemical industry, health-related industries and biotechnology-based industries. The curriculum provides students with the interdisciplinary background in biochemistry, biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics and molecular biology necessary as preparation for professional schools of human and veterinary medicine, dentistry, optometry, and pharmacy. It also provides strong preparation for graduate study in fields such as animal and plant agriculture, biochemistry, biology, molecular biology, genetics, biotechnology, chemistry, food science, nutrition and physiology. The curriculum is accredited by the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The degree requirements for a American Chemical Society certified degree can be met within the framework of the program.

Performance Requirements

To maintain biochemistry major status and to graduate, students must maintain at least a 2.0 overall GPA and a 2.0 cumulative GPA in coursework in biology, chemistry, and biochemistry.

Minors

All students have the possibility of earning one or more minors; list of all available minors and their requirements (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/minors>). Please note that students may not earn a minor in their major field.

Certificate of Global Engagement

Students in the Eberly College, regardless of their major, can earn a Certificate of Global Engagement. Completion of the Certificate demonstrates the student's knowledge of diverse cultures, as well as the ability to communicate and interact effectively with people of different cultural backgrounds. Students will be required to apply their knowledge of contemporary issues and global social contexts to their course work and their broader citizenship. For details regarding Certificate requirements, please visit the Eberly College page (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsocieties/#otherdegreestext>).

FACULTY

ANIMAL & NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES DIVISION DIRECTOR

- Robert L. Taylor - Ph.D. (Mississippi State University)
Professor of Poultry Science, Immunology

BIOLOGY CHAIR

- Richard B. Thomas - Ph.D. (Clemson University)
Professor of Physiological plant ecology, Forest ecology, Global climate change

CHEMISTRY CHAIR

- Gregory Dudley - PhD (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Eberly Family Distinguished Professor and Department Chair, Natural product synthesis

PROFESSORS

- Ashok P. Bidwai - Ph.D. (University of Utah)
Molecular genetic analysis of protein kinase, CK2 in *Drosophila*
- Kenneth P. Blemings - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)
Dean of the Honors College, Protein and amino acid metabolism
- Jonathan R. Cumming - Ph.D. (Cornell University)
Environmental plant physiology, Ecophysiology of root-mycorrhizal-soil interactions, Urban ecology
- Robert A. Dailey - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)
Reproductive Physiology

- Kevin C. Daly - Ph.D. (University of Arizona)
Sensory neurobiology
- Stephen DiFazio - Ph.D. (Oregon State University)
Plant genomics, Molecular ecology, Plant population genetics, Biotechnology risk assessment
- Terry Gullion - Ph.D. (William and Mary)
Physical chemistry, Solid State NMR, Biological Materials, Polymers
- Lisa Holland - Ph.D. (University North Carolina-Chapel Hill)
Micro-separations, High-throughput drug screening
- Jacek Jaczynski - Ph.D. (Oregon State University)
Food Science and Technology
- Charles Jaffe - Ph.D. (University of Colorado)
Theoretical chemistry, Molecular dynamics, Chaotic systems
- P. Brett Kenney - Ph.D. (Kansas State University)
Animal Science and Meat Science
- Fred L. King - Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
Analytical chemistry, Mass spectrometry, Trace elements, Gas-phase chemistry
- Hillar Klandorf - Ph.D. (British Council for National Academic Awards)
Physiology
- Kristen E. Matak - Ph.D. (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)
Human Nutrition and Foods
- James B. McGraw - Ph.D. (Duke University)
Plant ecology: Evolutionary ecology of perennial plants, Conservation biology, Demography, Forest remote sensing
- Joseph S. Moritz - Ph.D. (Kansas State University)
Effect of feed form on animal performance
- William Peterjohn - PhD
Ecosystem ecology
- Jeffrey L. Petersen - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Associate Chairperson, Physical inorganic chemistry, Electrophilic transition metal complexes, X-ray crystallography
- Kenneth Showalter - Ph.D. (University of Colorado)
Bennett Distinguished Professor, physical chemistry, Chemical kinetics, Multi-stability and oscillating chemical systems
- Bjorn Soderberg - Ph.D. (Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden)
Organic synthesis using transition metals
- Janet C. L. Tou - Ph.D. (University of Toronto)
Human nutrition and foods
- Kung Wang - Ph.D. (Purdue University)
Eberly Distinguished Professor of Chemistry
- Matthew E. Wilson - Ph.D. (Iowa State University)
Reproductive Physiology
- Jianbo Yao - Ph.D. (McGill University)
Molecular Biology - Genetics

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Kimberly M. Barnes - Ph.D. (University of Nebraska)
Coordinator of the Intercollegiate Biochemistry Program
- Clifton P. Bishop - Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
Molecular genetics, Developmental biology, Forensic biology
- Scott Bowdridge - Ph.D. (Virginia Tech)
Veterinary immunology
- Jonathan Boyd
- Sarah M. Farris - Ph.D. (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Evolution and development of the insect brain, Neuroanatomy
- Eugene E. Felton - Ph.D. (University of Missouri)
Ruminant nutrition
- Fabien Goulay - Ph.D. (University of Rennes, France)
Physical chemistry, Laser spectroscopy
- Jennifer Hawkins - Ph.D.
Plant comparative genomics, Molecular evolution

- Marlon Knights - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
Reproductive Physiology and Animal Production
- K. Marie Krause - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)
Dairy Science Nutrition
- Justin Legleiter - Ph.D. (Carnegie-Mellon University)
Biophysical Chemistry, Atomic Force Microscopy
- Melissa Olfert - Ph.D., R.D. (Loma Linda University)
Health and wellness
- Michelle Richards-Babb - Ph.D. (Lehigh University)
Chemical education
- Rita V.M. Rio - Ph.D. (Yale University)
Symbioses
- Stephen Valentine - Ph.D. (Indiana University)
Mass spectrometric analysis of biomolecules

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Craig Barrett - Ph.D.
Plant Evolutionary Biology
- Sadie Bergeron - Ph.D.
Developmental Neuroscience
- Edward Brzostek - Ph.D.
Forest Ecology and Ecosystem Modeling
- Andrew Dacks - Ph.D. (University of Arizona)
Neurobiology
- Tim Driscoll - Ph.D.
- Jennifer Gallagher - Ph.D.
- Jessica Hoover - Ph.D. (University of Washington)
Organometallics chemistry, Catalysis
- Peng Li
- Melissa Marra - Ph.D., R.D. (Florida International University)
Healthy aging and nutritional prevention of chronic disease
- Gary Marsat - Ph.D.
Neuroscience
- Daniel Mathew - Ph.D. (University of Missouri)
Reproductive physiology
- Blake Mertz - Ph.D. (Iowa State University)
Computational biophysics and chemistry
- Carsten Milsmann - Ph.D. (Max-Planck Institute for Bioinorganic Chemistry)
Bioinorganic organometallic chemistry
- Brian Popp - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Organic and organometallic chemistry, Catalysis
- Kevin Shaffer - Ph.D.
Extension Livestock Production Specialist
- Cangliang Shen - Ph.D. (Colorado State University)
Food Systems and Human Health

CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

- Donna Ford-Werntz - Ph.D. (Washington University/Missouri Botanical Garden)
Plant systematics: Portulacaceae, West Virginia flora

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Zach Fowler - Ph.D.
Arboretum Director

TEACHING ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Megan Govindan - M.P.H., M.S., R.D. (West Virginia University)
Human nutrition and foods

- Margaret A. Minch - D.V.M. (The Ohio State University)
Veterinary medicine
- Joshua Osbourn - Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)
Organic chemistry
- Betsy B. Ratcliff - Ph.D. (Binghamton University)
Innovative Teaching Methods
- Tabitha Razunguzwa - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
Physical Chemistry
- Crystal Smith - Ed.D. (West Virginia University)
Equine studies
- Jennifer Stueckle - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
Aquatic toxicology
- Mingming Xu - Ph.D. (Ohio University)
General Chemistry

TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Kevin Barry - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)
Conservation Ecology
- Erin Battin - Ph.D. (Clemson University)
Bio-inorganic chemistry
- Adam Burda - R.D.
- Melissa Ely - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
General Chemistry
- Amaris Guardiola - Ph.D. (Duke University)
- Dana Huebert-Lima - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Epigenetics
- Kevin Lee - Ph.D. (Temple University)
Virology, Cell and molecular biology methods
- John Navaratnam - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
Wetland ecology
- Mark R. Tinsley - Ph.D. (Leeds University, England)
Nonlinear dynamics, chemical oscillators, moving precipitation patterns
- Stephanie T. Young - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
Molecular and Forensic Biology

SENIOR LECTURERS

- Sue Raylman - Ph.D.
Animal behavior
- Sydha Salihu
Instructor
- Mark Schraf - M.S. (West Virginia University)
Analytical chemistry
- Elizabeth Thomas - M.S. (Clemson University)
Invertebrate zoology

PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Harry O. Finklea - Ph.D. (California Institute of Technology)
Analytical/physical chemistry
- E. Keith Inskeep - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)
Reproductive physiology
- Paul Lewis - Ph.D.
Assistant Director of Outreach and Community Affairs for Davis College
- Robert S. Nakon - Ph.D. (Texas A&M University)
Inorganic chemistry
- Ronald B. Smart - Ph.D.
- Alan M. Stolzenberg - Ph.D. (Stanford University)
Inorganic chemistry

- Anthony Winston - Ph.D. (Duke U.)
Polymer chemistry

Admissions Requirements

Entering freshman are admitted directly into the major.

Students coming from another major can be admitted with a minimum overall GPA of 2.0.

Benchmark Expectations

By the end of their third semester in the major students are expected to have completed BIOL 115, BIOL 117, and CHEM 115 OR CHEM 115, CHEM 116, and BIOL 115 with a minimum grade of C- in each course and an overall GPA of 2.0.

Students must maintain a GPA of at least 2.0 in the major and overall. All majors must attend an advising session with their Biochemistry advisor each semester.

Click the appropriate link below to view the corresponding Biochemistry Track Requirements and Suggested Plans of Study.

- American Chemical Society (ACS) (p. 8)
- American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) (p. 9)

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

General Education Foundations

F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Skills		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

- **Writing Requirement;** Biochemistry Bachelor of Science students fulfill the Writing and Communication Skills requirement by completing ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 (or ENGL 103), and at least two additional **SpeakWrite Certified Courses™** from: BIOL 115, BIOL 117, BIOL 219, BIOL 411, CHEM 403.

University Requirements		19
ANRD 191	First-Year Seminar	
GEF Requirements: number of credits will vary depending on overlap		
Program Core Requirements		5
AGBI 199	Orientation to Biochemistry	
AGBI 410	Introductory Biochemistry (Minimum grade of C-)	
AGBI 412	Introduction to Biochemistry Wet Laboratory (Minimum grade of C-)	
Biology Requirement		15
BIOL 115	Principles of Biology (Minimum grade of C-. May substitute BIOL 101-104)	
BIOL 117	Introductory Physiology (Minimum grade of C-)	

BIOL 219	The Living Cell (Minimum grade of C-)	
BIOL 310	Advanced Cellular/Molecular Biology	
Chemistry Requirement		28
Select one set (Minimum grade of C-):		
CHEM 115 & CHEM 116 & CHEM 215	Fundamentals of Chemistry and Fundamentals of Chemistry and Introductory Analytical Chemistry	
or:		
CHEM 117 & CHEM 118	Principles of Chemistry 1 and Principles of Chemistry 2	
and all of the following:		
CHEM 233	Organic Chemistry (Minimum grade of C-)	
CHEM 234	Organic Chemistry (Minimum grade of C-)	
CHEM 235	Organic Chemistry Laboratory (Minimum grade of C-)	
CHEM 236	Organic Chemistry Laboratory (Minimum grade of C-)	
CHEM 341	Physical Chemistry: Brief Course	
CHEM 342	Experimental Physical Chemistry	
CHEM 462	Biochemistry 2	
CHEM 464	Biochemistry 2 Laboratory	
Mathematics and Statistics Requirement		8
Minimum grade of C-		
MATH 155	Calculus 1	
or MATH 153 & MATH 154	Calculus 1a with Precalculus and Calculus 1b with Precalculus	
MATH 156	Calculus 2	
STAT 211	Elementary Statistical Inference	0 or 3
A track is required.		31
Number of credits may vary depending on courses selected		
Biochemistry Electives		
AEM 341	General Microbiology	
AEM 401	Environmental Microbiology	
AEM 420	Soil Microbiology	
AEM 445	Food Microbiology	
AGBI 386	Undergraduate Research Experience 1	
AGBI 486	Undergraduate Research Experience 2	
AGBI 496	Senior Thesis	
AGBI 497	Research	
AGBI 498	Honors	
AGBI 512	Nutritional Biochemistry	
AGBI 513	Nutritional Biochemistry Laboratory	
AGBI 514	Animal Biotechnology	
ANPH 301	Introduction to Animal Physiology	
ANPH 400	Growth and Lactation Physiology	
ANPH 405	Animal Physiology Laboratory	
ANPH 424	Physiology of Reproduction	
A&VS 402	Values and Ethics	
A&VS 451	Current Literature in Animal Science	
A&VS 496	Senior Thesis	
A&VS 497	Research	
BIOL 302	Biometry	
BIOL 312	Introduction to Virology	
BIOL 313	Molecular Basis of Cellular Growth	

BIOL 324 & BIOL 325	Molecular Genetics and Molecular Genetics Laboratory
BIOL 335	Cell Physiology
BIOL 348	Neuroscience 1
BIOL 350	Plant Physiology
BIOL 386	Undergraduate Research
BIOL 410	Cell and Molecular Biology Methods
BIOL 411	Introduction to Recombinant DNA
BIOL 413	Molecular Endocrinology
BIOL 414	Molecular Endocrinology-Laboratory
BIOL 415	Epigenetics
BIOL 420	Genomics
BIOL 423	Biochemistry of Nucleic Acids and Proteins
BIOL 424	Protein Structure and Function
BIOL 425	Developmental Genetics
BIOL 426	Molecular Biology of Cancer
BIOL 432	Forensic Biology
BIOL 436	General Animal Physiology
BIOL 440	Comparative Anatomy
BIOL 441	Vertebrate Microanatomy
BIOL 453	Molecular Basis of Disease
BIOL 454	Immunology
BIOL 496	Senior Thesis
BIOL 497	Research
CHEM 310	Instrumental Analysis
CHEM 312	Environmental Chemistry
CHEM 339	Organic Syntheses
CHEM 422	Intermediate Inorganic Chemistry
CHEM 460	Forensic Chemistry
CHEM 496	Senior Thesis
CHEM 497	Research
CHEM 514	Mass Spectrometry Principles and Practices
CHEM 516	Bioanalytical Chemistry
CHEM 552	Biochemical Toxicology
ENTO 404	Principles of Entomology
ENTO 412	Pest Management
FDST 445	Food Microbiology
FDST 449	Food Microbiology Lab
GEN 371	Principles of Genetics
HN&F 460	Advanced Nutrition
HN&F 473	Medical Nutrition Therapy 1
HN&F 474	Medical Nutrition Therapy 2
HORT 330	Plant Propagation
PPTH 401	General Plant Pathology
VETS 302	Animal Pathology
VETS 401	Veterinary Anatomy
VETS 405	Parasitology

Capstone Requirement

ASBMB Track, select one of the following options:

AGBI 386 & AGBI 486	Undergraduate Research Experience 1 and Undergraduate Research Experience 2
A&VS 402	Values and Ethics

ACS Track, complete both of the following:

CHEM 401 & CHEM 403	Chemical Literature and Undergraduate Seminar
------------------------	--

General Electives 11

Number of electives may vary depending on course options selected

Total Hours 117-120

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY (ACS) TRACK

CHEM 310	Instrumental Analysis	3
CHEM 401	Chemical Literature (Minimum grade of C-)	1
CHEM 403	Undergraduate Seminar	1
CHEM 422	Intermediate Inorganic Chemistry	3
CHEM 497	Research	3
PHYS 111	General Physics (Minimum grade of C-)	0 or 4
PHYS 112	General Physics (Minimum grade of C-)	0 or 4
Biochemistry Electives (See list above)		12
Total Hours		23-31

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY FOR THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY (ACS) TRACK**First Year**

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
ANRD 191	1 GEF 4	3
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3 BIOL 117 (GEF 8)	4
AGBI 199	1 CHEM 116 (GEF 8)*	4
BIOL 115 (GEF 2)	4 MATH 156	4
CHEM 115 (GEF 8)*	4	
MATH 155 (GEF 3)	4	
	17	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
BIOL 219	4 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
CHEM 233 & CHEM 235	4 GEF 5	3
PHYS 111	4 BIOL 310	3
STAT 211	3 CHEM 234 & CHEM 236 PHYS 112	4
	15	17

Third Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
GEF 6	3 F 7	3
AGBI 410 & AGBI 412	4 CHEM 341 & CHEM 342	4
CHEM 215	4 CHEM 462 & CHEM 464	4
Biochemistry Elective 1	3 General Elective	3
	14	14

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
CHEM 401 (Capstone)	1 CHEM 310	3
CHEM 422	3 CHEM 403 (Capstone)	1
CHEM 497	3 Biochemistry Elective 3	3
Biochemistry Elective 2	3 Biochemistry Elective 4	3

General Elective	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	2	
	15	13

Total credit hours: 120

* Students may substitute CHEM 117 and 118 for CHEM 115, 116, and 215.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (ASBMB) TRACK

AGBI 401	Senior Seminar in Biochemistry	1
BIOL 313	Molecular Basis of Cellular Growth	3
or BIOL 410	Cell and Molecular Biology Methods	
Choose one of the following:		3
AGBI 386 & AGBI 486	Undergraduate Research Experience 1 and Undergraduate Research Experience 2	
A&VS 402	Values and Ethics	
BIOL 423	Biochemistry of Nucleic Acids and Proteins	3
Choose one of the following:		8
PHYS 101 & PHYS 102	Introductory Physics 1 and Introductory Physics 2	
PHYS 101 & PHYS 112	Introductory Physics 1 and General Physics	
PHYS 111 & PHYS 112	General Physics and General Physics	
Biochemistry Electives (see list above)		13
Total Hours		31

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY FOR THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (ASBMB) TRACK

First Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
ANRD 191	1 GEF 4	3
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3 BIOL 117 (GEF 8)	4
AGBI 199	1 CHEM 116 (GEF 8)*	4
BIOL 115 (GEF 2)	4 MATH 156	4
CHEM 115 (GEF 8)*	4	
MATH 155 (GEF 3)	4	
	17	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
BIOL 219	4 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
CHEM 233 & CHEM 235	4 GEF 5	3
PHYS 101	4 BIOL 310	3
STAT 211	3 CHEM 234 & CHEM 236 PHYS 102	4
	15	17

Third Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
GEF 6	3 GEF 7	3
AGBI 410 & AGBI 412	4 BIOL 313 or 410	3

CHEM 215*	4 CHEM 341 & CHEM 342	4
Biochemistry Elective 1	3 CHEM 462 & CHEM 464	4
<hr/>		
	14	14

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
BIOL 423	3 AGBI 401	1
Biochemistry Elective 2	4 Biochemistry Elective 4	3
Biochemistry Elective 3	3 Capstone	3
General Elective	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	2 General Elective	3
<hr/>		
	15	13

Total credit hours: 120

* Chem 117 and 118 may be substituted for Chem 115, 116, and 215.

Major Learning Outcomes

BIOCHEMISTRY

Graduates will demonstrate a working knowledge in the following core concepts:

1. Energy is required by and transformed in biological systems.
2. Macromolecular structure determines function and regulation.
3. Information storage and flow are dynamic and interactive.
4. Discovery requires objective measurement, quantitative analysis, and clear communication.
5. The pervasive role evolution and homeostasis play in shaping the form and function of all biological molecules and organisms.