

# BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

## Graduate Programs

Many career opportunities in biochemistry require advanced coursework, and so part of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology's curriculum is focused on its graduate program leading to the MS or PhD degree. This graduate program is also an integral part of the extensive basic research activities supported by the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station.

## Prerequisites

Students with a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Chemistry or with strong backgrounds in other biological or physical science disciplines are eligible to apply to the graduate programs in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Individuals should have at least two semesters of organic chemistry and one semester of biochemistry, molecular biology, calculus, analytical and physical chemistry. Students may be required to take appropriate undergraduate courses if major deficiencies are identified.

## Degree Requirements

A more detailed description of the graduate study program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is available on the Department's website: <https://agriculture.okstate.edu/departments-programs/biochemistry/graduate-program/>. The requirements listed below complement the general graduate requirements described in the "Graduate College" section of the Catalog. All Biochemistry and Molecular Biology graduate students are expected to attend and participate in the Department's Graduate Student Association Journal Club and the Department's Seminar Series throughout the academic year.

## The Master of Science Degree

Twenty-four (24) credit hours of formal graduate courses are required, including:

Code	Title	Hours
BIOC 5002	Research Compliance and Biochemistry Graduate Colloquium	2
BIOC 5753	Biochemical Principles	3
BIOC 5112	Articulation of Research Logic	2
BIOC 5120	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Graduate Research Colloquium	1
BIOC 5853	Molecular and Integrative Metabolism	3
BIOC 5930	Advanced Biochemical Techniques	1-4

In addition, a student must present an acceptable research thesis (six hours of BIOC 5000 (<http://catalog.okstate.edu/search/?P=BIOC%205000>) Research) and pass a final oral examination covering their thesis work and related material. Research advisors are selected at the end of the student's first semester.

A non-thesis Master of Science degree is also available. It does not require a research thesis, but requires a report and extensive technical training in the laboratory. The non-thesis MS plan requires thirty (30)

credit hours of coursework and two (2) hours of research. The non-thesis MS is not recommended for students wishing to pursue a PhD.

A formal "Plan of Study" with the credit hours of graduate coursework and research listed above must be approved by the student's advisory committee and submitted to the OSU Graduate College before completing 17 credit hours of graduate study.

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree. The PhD program course requirements are determined with the assistance and approval of the student's advisory committee and are based on whether a BS or MS has previously been earned:

1. a minimum total of (60) graduate credits are required if a student enters the PhD program having earned an MS in a related discipline, with a minimum of 15 credit hours of coursework and a minimum of 15 credit hours of research being required.
2. a minimum total of ninety (90) graduate credits are required if a student enters the PhD program having earned not higher than a BS in a related discipline, with a minimum of 30 credit hours of coursework and 15 credit hours of research being required.

A formal "Plan of Study" with the credit hours of graduate coursework and research listed above must be approved by the student's advisory committee and submitted to the OSU Graduate College before completing 28 credit hours of graduate study.

The student's advisory committee is selected at the end of the student's second semester. All graduate students must maintain a B-average in their graduate coursework. A grade of C in a single graduate course can place the student on academic probation.

The Department offers research experience in a variety of areas. Formal PhD program graduate coursework includes all of the courses listed for the MS degree, at least four of the advanced graduate courses in biochemistry (6000-level) including BIOC 6740 (<http://catalog.okstate.edu/search/?P=BIOC%206740>) Physical Biochemistry, and additional courses and lab experience appropriate to the student's interests. Each student will take a series of preliminary examinations in their third semester. January if admitted in the fall; or May, if admitted in the Spring.

Each student also presents and defends their research thesis proposal sometime in their 4th-5th semester, and at the end of their program presents their research and defends their dissertation in a final oral examination. The doctoral dissertation must contain a substantial original contribution to the discipline of biochemistry and molecular biology.

## Bioinformatics Graduate Certificate Program

The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology also offers the Bioinformatics Graduate Certificate Program—a multi-disciplinary program that involves faculty in Departments across the University. This Program's mission is to train post-baccalaureate students in the techniques required to generate, analyze and interpret complex biologically-derived data sets. The Graduate Certificate in Bioinformatics requires completion of 16 credit hours of coursework eligible for graduate credit. A minimum of 12 credit hours must be at the 5000-level or above. Required courses include 9 credit hours from the core areas of life sciences, statistics and computer sciences. Additional

information on this Certificate Program is available online: <http://www.bioinformatics.okstate.edu/>.

## **Review Process for Admission**

The Department's Graduate Studies Committee reviews all eligible applications for the graduate program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. To be eligible for committee review, each applicant must submit an application for admission to the Graduate College, along with transcripts of all academic records, and TOEFL scores if their undergraduate education was in a language other than English. Applicants must submit to the Department three reference letters, a current resume and a statement of purpose.