School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Molecular Biology (BS)

The Biology Program at UT Dallas emphasizes the unifying molecular and cellular nature of organisms. At the center of the Biology undergraduate curriculum are the biochemical, genetic, and cell biology concepts and tools used to study the genes of prokaryotes and eukaryotes, to study the proteins and ribonucleic acids (RNA) encoded by these genes, and to study how the expression of these genes is regulated during the development and lifetimes of organisms. Molecular Biology represents a fusion of the four disciplines of biochemistry, biophysics, genetics, and cell biology. Modern biology requires a background in other disciplines such as chemistry, mathematics, physics, and computer sciences. Principles from these disciplines have to be merged to understand and apply new biotechnology and genetic engineering techniques. It is desirable for entering students to have a broad interest and background in the sciences.

Both BS and BA degrees are offered in Biology at UT Dallas; a BS degree is offered in Molecular Biology. The BS degrees are intended as preparation for scientific careers in biology or careers in the health professions. The BA degree is intended as liberal arts biology major with less emphasis on calculus and more free hours for coursework in other disciplines. Each degree in Biology offers a streamlined double major with Business Administration or Crime and Justice Studies. Five-year Fast Track BS / MS Biology and Molecular Biology degree programs are available.

Minors are offered in Biology, Biomolecular Structure, Microbiology, Molecular and Cell Biology, and Neurobiology.

Faculty

Professors: Lee A. Bulla, Santosh D'Mello, Rockford K. Draper, Juan E. González, Stephen D. Levene, Lawrence J. Reitzer, Stephen Spiro, Li Zhang, Michael Qiwei Zhang

Professors Emeritus: Hans Bremer, Donald M. Gray, Claud S. Rupert

Associate Professors: Gail A. M. Breen, John G. Burr, Jeff L. DeJong, Ernest M. Hannig, Dennis L. Miller

Assistant Professors: Heng Du, Jung-whan (Jay) Kim, Kelli Palmer, Duane D. Winkler, Zhenyu Xuan, Hyuntae Yoo

Research Assistant Professor: Lan Guo

Senior Lecturers: Irina Borovkov, Mehmet Candas, Vincent P. Cirillo, Monique Duncan, Wen-Ju Lin, Robert C. Marsh, David Murchison, Elizabeth Pickett, Ruben D. Ramirez, Elizabeth Rugg, Scott A. Rippel, Ilya Saposzhnikov, Uma Srikanth, Michelle Wilson, Wen-Ho Yu
Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology

Degree Requirements (120 hours)

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 hours

Communication (6 hours)

3 hours Communication (RHET 1302)

3 hours Communication Elective (BIOL 4337, BIOL 4390, BIOL 4391, BIOL 4398, BIOL 4399 or NATS 4310)

Social and Behavioral Sciences (15 hours)

6 semester credit hours Government (GOVT 2301 and GOVT 2302)

6 hours American History

3 hours Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective

Humanities and Fine Arts (6 hours)

3 hours Fine Arts (ARTS 1301)

3 hours Humanities (HUMA 1301)

Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (6 hours)

6 hours Calculus (MATH 2417 and MATH 2419)

Science (9 hours)

9 hours Chemistry (CHEM 1311 and CHEM 1111, CHEM 1312 and CHEM 1112, and CHEM 212)

II. Major Requirements: 68-69 hours

Major Preparatory Courses (20-21 hours beyond Core Curriculum)

CHEM 1111 General Chemistry Laboratory I

CHEM 1112 General Chemistry Laboratory II

CHEM 1311 General Chemistry I

CHEM 1312 General Chemistry II

CHEM 2123 Introductory Organic Chemistry Laboratory I

CHEM 2125 Introductory Organic Chemistry Laboratory II
CHEM 2323 Introductory Organic Chemistry I
CHEM 2325 Introductory Organic Chemistry II
MATH 2417 Calculus I
MATH 2419 Calculus II
MATH 2418 Linear Algebra
PHYS 2125 Physics Laboratory I
PHYS 2126 Physics Laboratory II
PHYS 2325 Mechanics
PHYS 2326 Electromagnetism and Waves

Major Core Courses (35-36 hours)

BIOL 2111 Introduction to Modern Biology Workshop I
BIOL 2112 Introduction to Modern Biology Workshop II
BIOL 2281 Introductory Biology Laboratory
BIOL 2311 Introduction to Modern Biology I
BIOL 2312 Introduction to Modern Biology II
BIOL 3101 Classical and Molecular Genetics Workshop
BIOL 3102 Eukaryotic Molecular and Cell Biology Workshop
BIOL 3161 Biochemistry Workshop I
BIOL 3162 Biochemistry Workshop II
BIOL 3301 Classical and Molecular Genetics
BIOL 3302 Eukaryotic Molecular and Cell Biology
BIOL 3361 Biochemistry I
BIOL 3362 Biochemistry II
  or BIOL 3335 Microbial Physiology
BIOL 3380 Biochemistry Laboratory
BIOL 4380 Cell & Molecular Biology Laboratory
  or BIOL 3V96 (3 hours) Undergraduate Research in Molecular and Cell Biology
  or BIOL 4399 (3 hours) Senior Honors Research in Molecular and Cell Biology
  or BIOL 4391 (3 hours) Senior Research in Molecular and Cell Biology
BIOL 4461 Biophysical Chemistry
Major Related Courses (12 hours)

12 hours upper-division approved molecular biology-related BIOL or CHEM electives

III. Elective Requirements: 9-10 hours

Free Electives (9-10 hours)

All students must complete at least 51 hours of upper-division courses to graduate.

Minor in Biology

Minor in Biology

Course Requirements: 18 hours

BIOL 2311 and BIOL 2111 Introduction to Modern Biology I with Workshop

BIOL 3301 and BIOL 3101 Classical and Molecular Genetics with Workshop

BIOL 3361 and BIOL 3161 Biochemistry I with Workshop

Two BIOL electives for majors

Minor in Biomolecular Structure

Course Requirements: 18 hours

BIOL 3336 Protein and Nucleic Acid Structure

BIOL 4461 Biophysical Chemistry, unless taken to fulfill the Molecular Biology major requirements

BIOL 4261 Biomolecular Modeling

CHEM 2323 and CHEM 2325 Introductory Organic Chemistry I and II

One to two approved BIOL, CHEM, CS, EE, MATH, or PHYS electives

Minor in Molecular and Cell Biology

Course Requirements: 18 hours

CHEM 2323 and CHEM 2325 Introductory Organic Chemistry I and II

Four approved molecular and cell biology electives

Minor in Microbiology

Course Requirements: 18 hours

BIOL 3V20 General Microbiology with Laboratory
BIOL 3335  Microbial Physiology

BIOL 4350  Medical Microbiology or BIOL 4316  Parasites and Symbionts

BIOL 4345  Immunobiology

CHEM 2323  Introductory Organic Chemistry I

One approved microbiology elective

Minor in Neurobiology

Course Requirements: 18 hours

BIOL 4370  Developmental Neurobiology

BIOL 3371  Biology of the Brain or NSC 4352  Cellular Neuroscience

CHEM 2323 and CHEM 2325  Introductory Organic Chemistry I and II

NSC 4353  Neuroscience Laboratory Methods

NSC 4354  Integrative Neuroscience

Fast Track Baccalaureate/Master’s Degrees

UT Dallas undergraduate students with strong academic records, including at least 15 hours of upper-division Biology core courses, who intend to pursue graduate work in Biology at UT Dallas, may apply for the Fast Track which involves taking selected graduate courses as an upper-division student. After admission to the graduate program, 15 hours of graduate courses with an earned grade of B or better can be used toward completion of the BS and to satisfy requirements for those courses at the graduate level. Graduate courses must be approved by the graduate advisor. This program provides an opportunity to obtain the BS degree in Biology after 120 hours of work and an MS degree in Molecular and Cell Biology after an additional 21 hours of graduate course and research work. Interested students should contact the Biology undergraduate advisor well in advance of the senior year to prepare a degree plan taking maximal advantage of this 5-year Fast Track program.

Degree Planning

Upper-division biology courses taken at other institutions may be included as part of the degree plan subject to the provisions of the section on Transfer Admissions.

Major-related courses may not include more than 9 hours (BS) or 6 hours (BA) of upper-division transfer credit and not more than 3 hours (Biology major) or 6 hours (Molecular Biology major) of individual instruction (e.g., BIOL 3V90, BIOL 3V91, BIOL 3V92, BIOL 3V95, BIOL 3V96, BIOL 4302, BIOL 4390, BIOL 4391, BIOL 4398, BIOL 4399, BIOL 4V98, or BIOL 4V99).

Students planning a career in a particular allied health profession should consult the school they expect to attend to apprise themselves of the course requirements for admission.

Admission standards for medical and dental schools are set by the individual professional school,
whose specific requirements should be reviewed with the help of the UT Dallas Health Professions Advising Center (HPAC). Most professional schools prefer that admission applications be channeled through the HPAC.

1. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from accredited institutions of higher education. The courses listed in parentheses are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.

2. Molecular Biology majors may choose BIOL 4337, BIOL 4390, BIOL 4391, BIOL 4398, BIOL 4399, NATS 4310 or another approved Biology elective to fulfill the Core Curriculum Communication Elective.

3. Six hours of Calculus are counted under Mathematics Core, and 2 hours of Calculus are counted as Major Preparatory Courses.

4. A required Major course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Hours are counted in Core Curriculum.

5. Indicates a prerequisite class to be completed before enrolling for upper-division classes.

6. These substitutes for BIOL 4380 require permission of the Biology Undergraduate Advisor to ensure equivalent training in recombinant DNA analysis.

7. Up to 6 hours of research may be used in fulfilling the major related course requirement.

8. Two hours of BIOL 3V20 may be used to satisfy the upper level elective requirement for Biology and Molecular Biology majors.

9. May be substituted with CHEM 2325 Introductory Chemistry II if used to satisfy the Biochemistry II core requirement for Biology and Molecular Biology majors.

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