

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Biochemistry is the chemistry of life – the molecules, reactions, and energy transformations that underlie structure and function in all living organisms. The study of biochemistry combines knowledge from chemistry, biology, physics, and mathematics (and sometimes other disciplines) to understand how life works at the molecular level. This integrated scientific knowledge will be essential for understanding the future of human health, sustainable energy, and the environment.

The B.S. Biochemistry program at CU Denver strongly emphasizes connections between basic science and human health. Required coursework covers much of the foundational knowledge and skills for graduate and health professions entrance exams. Several courses explore connections between cutting-edge biochemical research and different diseases. Students are encouraged to take advantage of undergraduate research opportunities in biochemistry and related fields either at CU-Denver or on the nearby Anschutz Medical campus. Graduates learn skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and scientific communication for careers in the health and natural sciences. A B.S. in Biochemistry stands out as a premiere accomplishment in applications for professional degree programs, including pharmacy, medicine, nursing, dentistry, medical technology, and many others.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a dual-advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major/faculty advisor.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising

clas_advising@ucdenver.edu

Find your CLAS Advisor [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) Building 1030

303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

Vanessa Fishback

vanessa.fishback@ucdenver.edu

Visit the department website [here](#)

Science Building (SI) 3073

303-315-7636

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) semester hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 hours in CLAS at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** semester hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:*

- 56 semester hours in major department/prefix courses
- 16 semester hours Pass/Fail
- 12 semester hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 semester hours of internship credit
- 8 semester hours of physical education credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with the major/faculty advisor in the department to confirm major requirements. Students completing the Biochemistry B.S. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 80 credit hours, including a minimum of 45 CHEM credit hours and a minimum of 35 credit hours in ancillary coursework.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 16 upper-division (3000-level and above) CHEM credit hours.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of C-(1.7) in all major courses taken at CU Denver and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. All graded attempts in required and elective courses are calculated in the major GPA. Students cannot complete major or ancillary course requirements as pass/fail.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 14 credits hours with CU Denver faculty including CHEM 4518 or CHEM 4538 or CHEM 4548.
5. A student who has declared a Biochemistry major at CU Denver may not take additional chemistry courses outside of the department for the purpose of applying those credits toward meeting the requirements of the major without prior written approval of the undergraduate Biochemistry advisor. No more than 3 additional hours of such pre-approved transfer credits will be allowed.
6. All courses applied to the Biochemistry major need to be taken within ten years of the graduation date.
7. Intro Experimental Physics labs I and II (PHYS 2321 and PHYS 2341) are specifically designed for students in non-Physics majors and can be paired with either College Physics (PHYS 2010 and PHYS 2020) or General Physics (PHYS 2311 and PHYS 2331) lectures. Students pursuing a second major in Physics should complete General Physics lectures (PHYS 2311 and PHYS 2331) and Applied Physics Labs (PHYS 2351 and PHYS 2361).

LYNX CONNECT RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver Lynx Connect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the Lynx Connect [website](#) for more information.

Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40	CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements
CLAS Graduation Requirements	15 - 29	CLAS Graduation Requirements
BICM Major Requirements	80	At least 16 CHEM semester hours must be upper-division
CHEM Required Courses		
CHEM 2031 General Chemistry I or CHEM 2081 Honors General Chemistry I ^{FA}	3	*Prerequisite: Placement. If AP and IB credit for General Chemistry see Chemistry Advisor before registering for first chemistry class. See BICM advisor for CHEM 2081.
CHEM 2038 General Chemistry I Lab or CHEM 2088 Honors General Chemistry I Lab ^{FA}	1	*Prerequisite/Corequisite: CHEM 2031 or 2081 See BICM advisor for CHEM 2088.
CHEM 2061 General Chemistry II or CHEM 2091 Honors General Chemistry II ^{SP}	3	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in CHEM 2031 or 2081. See BICM advisor for CHEM 2091.
CHEM 2068 General Chemistry II Lab or CHEM 2098 Honors General Chemistry II Lab ^{SP}	2	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in CHEM 2038 or 2088. *Prerequisite/Corequisite: CHEM 2061 or CHEM 2091 See BICM advisor for CHEM 2098.
CHEM 3411 Organic Chemistry I or CHEM 3481 Honors Organic Chemistry I ^{FA}	4	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in CHEM 2061 or 2091. See BICM advisor for CHEM 3481.
CHEM 3418 Organic Chemistry I Lab or CHEM 3488 Honors Organic Chemistry I Lab ^{FA}	1 - 2	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in CHEM 2068 or 2098. *Prerequisite/Corequisite: CHEM 3411 or 3481 See BICM advisor for CHEM 3488.
CHEM 3421 Organic Chemistry II or CHEM 3491 Honors Organic Chemistry II ^{SP}	4	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in CHEM 3411 or 3481. See BICM advisor for CHEM 3491.
CHEM 3498 Honors Organic Chemistry II Lab ^{FA, SP}	2	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in CHEM 3411 or 3481 and 3418 or 3488. *Prerequisite/Corequisite: CHEM 3421 or 3491 See BICM advisor for CHEM 3498.
CHEM 4810 General Biochemistry I ^{FA} or CHEM 5810 Graduate Biochemistry I ^{FA}	3	*Prerequisite/Corequisite: C- or higher in CHEM 3421 or 3491 (for 4810)
CHEM 4828 Biochemistry Lab ^{SP}	2	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in CHEM 3810 or 4810 or 5810
CHEM 4500 Foundations of Physical Chemistry ^{SP} Required for students on an algebra-based physics track. Recommended for students on a calculus-based physics track.	3	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in MATH 2411 and PHYS 2020 *Prerequisite/Corequisite: PHYS 2331 and CHEM 3421 or 3491
CHEM 4521 Physical Chemistry: Quantum Mechanics & Spectroscopy ^{FA} or CHEM 4511 Physical Chemistry: Thermodynamics and Kinetics ^{SP}	3	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in PHYS 2331 or 2020 *Prerequisite/Corequisite: MATH 3511 or MATH 2421 (if PHYS 2331 was completed) or CHEM 4500 (if PHYS 2020 or 2331 was completed)
CHEM 4548 Physical Biochemistry Lab ^{SP} (recommended) or CHEM 4538 Physical Chemistry Lab: Molecular Structure ^{FA} or CHEM 4518 Physical Chemistry Lab: Reaction Analysis ^{SP}	2	*Prerequisite/Corequisite: CHEM 4521 (for 4538) *Prerequisite/Corequisite: CHEM 4511 (for 4518) *Prerequisite/Corequisite: CHEM 4511 and 4521 (for 4548)
Biochemistry Electives Complete three approved biochemistry elective courses	9	*Check individual courses for prerequisites and availability. See BICM advisor for approved list of electives.
Molecular Science Electives Complete two approved molecular science elective courses not including required courses for the major	6	*Check individual courses for prerequisites and availability. See BICM advisor for approved list of electives.
Ancillary (Supporting Math and Science) Courses:		
BIOL 2051 & 2071 General Biology I with Lab or BIOL 2095 & 2096 Honors General Biology I with Lab ^{FA}	4	*Prerequisite: High School chemistry or CHEM 1000 recommended
BIOL 2061 & 2081 General Biology II with Lab or BIOL 2097 & 2098 Honors General Biology II with Lab ^{SP}	4	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in General or Honors BIOL I with lab
PHYS 2311 & 2321 General Physics I & Intro to Experimental Phys Lab I and PHYS 2331 & 2341 General Physics II & Intro Experimental Phys Lab II or PHYS 2010 & 2321 College Physics I & Intro to Experimental Phys Lab I and PHYS 2020 & 2341 College Physics II & Intro to Experimental Phys Lab II	10	*Prerequisite: MATH 1401 for PHYS 2311 *Prerequisite: C- or higher in PHYS 2311 and MATH 2411 (for 2331) *Prerequisite: C- or higher in PHYS 2010 or 2311 (for 2020) *Prerequisite: C- or higher in PHYS 2030, 2321, or 2351 with (for 2341)
MATH 1401 Calculus I	4	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in MATH 1109, 1070, or 1110 and MATH 1120; or C- or higher in MATH 1130; or C- or higher in MATH 1401; or entry into the MA01 Student Group OR ALEKS PPL score 76-100. Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Mathematics
MATH 2411 Calculus II	4	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in MATH 1401
MATH 3511 Mathematics of Chemistry Required only for students who do not complete CHEM 4500	4	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in MATH 2411 and CHEM 2031 or 2081 and CHEM 2061 or 2091
Estimated General Electives	0	General Elective credits vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.
Total Minimum Program Hours:	120	45 semester hours must be upper-division

SUGGESTED ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *suggested* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit) and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

Note: Students should be aware that certain graduate programs do not accept AP, IB and CLEP credits. Students must create and have an academic plan of study on file with the Chemistry Major Advisor.

Year One	Fall	CRS
	ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3
	CHEM 2031 & 2038 ^C or CHEM 2081 & 2088	4
	BIOL 2051 & 2071 ^C or BIOL 2095 & 2096	4
	MATH 1401 ^{PE}	4
	UNIV 1110 College Success	1
	Total Credit Hours	16

Spring	CRS
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
CHEM 2061 & 2068 ^C or CHEM 2091 & 2098 ^{PE}	5
BIOL 2061 & 2081 ^{PE C} or BIOL 2097 & 2098 ^{PE}	4
CU Denver Core Behavioral Science	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year Two	Fall	CRS
	CHEM 3411 & 3418 ^{PE} or CHEM 3481 & 3488 ^{PE}	5-6
	PHYS 2010 & 2321 ^C or PHYS 2311 & 2321 ^{PE C} (see BICM advisor)	5
	MATH 2411 ^{PE}	4
	CU Denver Core Humanities	3
	Total Credit Hours	17-18

Spring	CRS
CHEM 3421 ^{PE} or CHEM 3491 ^{PE}	4
CHEM 3498 ^{PE}	2
PHYS 2020 & 2341 ^C or PHYS 2331 & 2341 ^{PE C} (see BICM advisor)	5
CU Denver Core Arts	3
Total Credit Hours	14-18

Year Three	Fall	CRS
	CHEM 4810 ^{PE} or 5810 ^{PE}	3
	CLAS Communicative Skills	3
	CLAS Foreign Language Semester I	5
	Approved Upper-Division Molecular Science Elective ^{PE}	3
	Total Credit Hours	14

Spring	CRS
CHEM 4500 ^{PE}	3
CHEM 4828 ^{PE}	2
Approved Upper-Division Biochemistry Elective ^{PE}	3
CLAS Foreign Language Semester II	5
CLAS Social Science (Upper-Division)	3
Total Credit Hours	16

^M Major Course Available ^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended

Biochemistry students have multiple sequencing options for year four depending on the semester in which they complete specific major courses. Students must work with the BICM advisor to discuss and plan for one of the following year four options:

Option 1:

Year Four	Fall	CRS
	Approved Upper-Division Biochemistry or Molecular Science Elective ^{PE}	3-5
	CLAS Humanities (Upper-Division)	3
	CU Denver Core Social Science	3
	CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3
	CLAS Behavioral Science (Upper-Division)	3
	Total Credit Hours	15-17

Spring	CRS
CHEM 4511 ^{PE}	3
CHEM 4548 ^{PE}	2
Approved Upper-Division Biochemistry Elective ^{PE}	3
Approved Upper-Division Biochemistry or Molecular Science Elective ^{PE}	3-5
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
Total Credit Hours	14-16

^M Major Course Available ^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended

Option 2:

Year Four	Fall	CRS
	CHEM 4521 ^{PE}	3
	CHEM 4538 ^{PE}	2
	Approved Upper-Division Biochemistry or Molecular Science Elective ^{PE}	3-5
	CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3
	CU Denver Core Social Science	3
	Total Credit Hours	14-16

Spring	CRS
Approved Upper-Division Biochemistry or Molecular Science Elective ^{PE}	3
Approved Upper-Division Biochemistry Elective ^{PE}	3
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
CLAS Humanities (Upper-Division)	3
CLAS Behavioral Science (Upper-Division)	3
Total Credit Hours	15-17

^M Major Course Available ^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended