Program of Study

The Department of Chemistry, in conjunction with the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BCMB) in the Division of the Biological Sciences, offers a BS degree in Biological Chemistry. The program is designed to prepare students to enter a variety of interdisciplinary fields in biochemical and biophysical sciences. Undergraduate research is strongly encouraged. By combining resources of both departments, students in this program are given the opportunity to study chemistry and physics of macromolecules, mechanisms of actions of enzymes and hormones, molecular and cellular biology, biotechnology, and other related fields.
Honors and Undergraduate Research. By their third year, students majoring in Biological Chemistry are strongly encouraged to participate in research with a faculty member. For more information on research opportunities and honors in Biological Chemistry, visit [chemistry.uchicago.edu/undergraduate.shtml](http://chemistry.uchicago.edu/undergraduate.shtml).

Excellent students who pursue a substantive research project with a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry or the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology should plan to submit an honors thesis. Students typically begin research during their third year, and they continue their research activities through the following summer and their fourth year. To be considered for honors, students are expected to receive approval from the program adviser before the end of their third year. Eligible students must also enroll in at least one quarter of Advanced Research in Biological Chemistry (CHEM 29900), which must be taken for a quality grade.

A BS with honors in Biological Chemistry requires students to write a creditable honors paper describing their research. The paper must be approved by the program advisers in the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and it must be submitted before the deadline established by the department. In addition, an oral presentation of the research is required.

To earn a BA or BS degree with honors in Chemistry, students must also have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Joint Degree Program. A four-year joint degree program leading to a concurrent award of the BS in Biological Chemistry and the MS in Chemistry is available for a select group of students who have achieved advanced standing through their performance on placement or on accreditation examinations. Special programs are developed for such students. For more information, consult Gregory Hillhouse at gh15@uchicago.edu and Vera Dragisich at vdragisi@uchicago.edu in the Chemistry Department, and Ron Gorny at rlg2@uchicago.edu in the College advising office.

Faculty. For a list of faculty, see the Chemistry section of this catalog.