

BIOCHEMISTRY - B.S.

College of Sciences and Humanities
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
www.kent.edu/chemistry

About This Program

Our Biochemistry program equips you with the knowledge and skills needed to understand the molecular basis of life. With hands-on experiences in state-of-the-art labs and guidance from our experienced faculty, you will develop the strong foundation in biochemistry needed for careers in research, medicine and pharmaceutical fields. Read more...

Contact Information

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- Speak with an Advisor
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Agricultural and food science technicians

- 4.1% about as fast as the average
- 24,200 number of jobs
- \$41,970 potential earnings

Biochemists and biophysicists

- 4.0% about as fast as the average
- 34,600 number of jobs
- \$94,270 potential earnings

Bioengineers and biomedical engineers

- 4.7% about as fast as the average
- 21,200 number of jobs
- \$92,620 potential earnings

Biological science teachers, postsecondary

- 9.3% much faster than the average
- 64,700 number of jobs
- \$85,600 potential earnings

Biological technicians

- 4.9% about as fast as the average
- 87,500 number of jobs
- \$46,340 potential earnings

Chemical engineers

- 4.4% about as fast as the average
- 32,600 number of jobs
- \$108,540 potential earnings

Environmental engineers

- 3.1% about as fast as the average
- 55,800 number of jobs
- \$92,120 potential earnings

Forensic science technicians

- 14.1% much faster than the average
- 17,200 number of jobs
- \$60,590 potential earnings

Genetic counselors

- 21.5% much faster than the average
- 2,600 number of jobs
- \$85,700 potential earnings

Medical scientists, except epidemiologists

- 6.1% faster than the average
- 138,300 number of jobs
- \$91,510 potential earnings

Occupational health and safety technicians

- 4.8% about as fast as the average
- 22,100 number of jobs
- \$53,340 potential earnings

Pharmacists

- -3.3% decline
- 321,700 number of jobs
- \$128,710 potential earnings

Additional careers

- Biochemical engineers
- DNA analysts
- Fermentation technicians
- Genetic engineers
- Grant writers
- National Institutes of Health officers
- Quality control technicians
- Research scientists
- Science writers and communicators

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students.

First-Year Students on the Kent Campus: First-year admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon cumulative grade point average, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. Students not admissible to the Kent Campus may be administratively referred to one of the seven regional campuses to begin their college coursework. For more information, visit the admissions website for first-year students.

First-Year Students on the Regional Campuses: First-year admission to Kent State's campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Twinsburg Academic Center, is open to anyone with a high school diploma or its equivalent. For more information on admissions, contact the Regional Campuses admissions offices.

International Students: All international students must provide proof of proficiency of the English language (unless they meet specific exceptions) through the submission of an English language proficiency test score or by completing English language classes at Kent State's English as a Second Language Center before entering their program. For more information, visit the admissions website for international students.

Former Students: Former Kent State students who have not attended another institution since Kent State and were not academically dismissed will complete the re-enrollment process through the Financial, Billing and Enrollment Center. Former students who attended another college or university since leaving Kent State must apply for admissions as a transfer or post-undergraduate student.

Transfer Students: Students who attended an educational institution after graduating from high school or earning their GED must apply as transfer students. For more information, visit the admissions website for transfer students.

Admission policies for undergraduate students may be found in the University Catalog's Academic Policies.

Students may be required to meet certain criteria to progress in their program. Any progression requirements will be listed on the program's Coursework tab

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
BSCI 10120	BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS (ELR) (KBS) (KLAB)	4
BSCI 30140	CELL BIOLOGY	4
BSCI 30156	ELEMENTS OF GENETICS	3
BSCI 30171	GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY	4
CHEM 10060	GENERAL CHEMISTRY I (KBS)	4-6
or CHEM 10970	HONORS GENERAL CHEMISTRY I (KBS)	
or CHEM 11060	GENERAL CHEMISTRY I BOOST (KBS)	
CHEM 10061	GENERAL CHEMISTRY II (KBS)	4
or CHEM 10971	HONORS GENERAL CHEMISTRY II (KBS)	

CHEM 10062	GENERAL CHEMISTRY I LABORATORY (KBS) (KLAB)	1
CHEM 10063	GENERAL CHEMISTRY II LABORATORY (KBS) (KLAB)	1
CHEM 30105	ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY I	3
CHEM 30107	ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY I (WIC) ¹	1
CHEM 30301	INORGANIC CHEMISTRY I	3
CHEM 30475	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABORATORY I (ELR)	1
CHEM 30476	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABORATORY II	1
CHEM 30481	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I	3
CHEM 30482	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY II	3
CHEM 40251	ADVANCED BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY (WIC) ¹	2
CHEM 40261	BIOCHEMISTRY: BIOMOLECULE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION	3
CHEM 40262	BIOCHEMISTRY: METABOLISM AND GENE EXPRESSION	3
CHEM 40263	PHYSICAL BIOCHEMISTRY	3
CHEM 40567	PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY FOR LIFE SCIENCES	4
CHEM 40568	ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY	1
MATH 12002	ANALYTIC GEOMETRY AND CALCULUS I (KMCR)	4-5
or MATH 12021	CALCULUS FOR LIFE SCIENCES	
MATH 12022	PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS FOR LIFE SCIENCES	3
or MATH 30011	BASIC PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS	
Physics Electives, choose from the following:		10
PHY 13001 & PHY 13002 & PHY 13021 & PHY 13022	GENERAL COLLEGE PHYSICS I (KBS) and GENERAL COLLEGE PHYSICS II (KBS) and GENERAL COLLEGE PHYSICS LABORATORY I (KBS) (KLAB) and GENERAL COLLEGE PHYSICS LABORATORY II (KBS) (KLAB)	
PHY 23101 & PHY 23102	GENERAL UNIVERSITY PHYSICS I (KBS) (KLAB) and GENERAL UNIVERSITY PHYSICS II (KBS) (KLAB)	

Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)		
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
Foreign Language (see Foreign Language College Requirement below)		8
Kent Core Composition		6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning		3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each) ²		9
General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 39 upper-division credit hours) ³		5
Concentration or Additional Requirements		
Choose from the following:		15
Additional Requirements for Students Not Declaring a Concentration		
Pre-Medicine/Pre-Osteopathy/Pre-Dentistry/Pre-Podiatric Medicine Concentration		

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 120

¹ A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

² PHIL 21001 is recommended for students in the Pre-Medicine/Pre-Osteopathy/Pre-Dentistry/Pre-Podiatric Medicine concentration.

³ The following are recommended for students in the Pre-Medicine/Pre-Osteopathy/Pre-Dentistry/Pre-Podiatric Medicine concentration: COMM 15000, ECON 22060, ECON 42086, PSYC 40111, PSYC 41363, SOC 42563.

Additional Requirements for Students Not Declaring a Concentration

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
Major Electives, choose from the following:		9
Strongly Suggested Electives		
BSCI 40174	IMMUNOLOGY	
BSCI 40220	BIOINFORMATICS	
BSCI 40430	ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY	
or BSCI 40460	ADVANCED HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY	
BSCI 40462	ADVANCED HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY: READINGS AND CASE STUDIES	
BTEC 40191	SEMINAR: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY	
CHEM 40109	BIOANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40113	CHEMICAL SEPARATIONS	
CHEM 40264	MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40295	SPECIAL TOPICS IN BIOCHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40365	BIOLOGICAL INORGANIC CHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40796	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION ¹	
Other Suggested Electives		
CHEM 30106	ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY II	
CHEM 30108	ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY II (WIC) ²	
CHEM 40195	SPECIAL TOPICS IN ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40302	INORGANIC CHEMISTRY II	
CHEM 40364	INTERMEDIATE INORGANIC CHEMISTRY LAB	
CHEM 40395	SPECIAL TOPICS IN INORGANIC CHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40451	ORGANIC MATERIALS CHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40476	SPECTROSCOPIC IDENTIFICATION OF ORGANIC COMPOUNDS	
CHEM 40477	INTERMEDIATE ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABORATORY	
CHEM 40483	INTERMEDIATE ORGANIC CHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40495	SPECIAL TOPICS IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40559	NANOMATERIALS	
CHEM 40571	SURFACE CHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40595	SPECIAL TOPICS IN PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY	
Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)		
Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines)		6
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		15

¹ Maximum 4 credit hours of CHEM 40796 may be applied toward major electives.

² A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

Pre-Medicine/Pre-Osteopathy/Pre-Dentistry/Pre-Podiatric Medicine Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
BSCI 40430	ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY	3
or BSCI 40460	ADVANCED HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY	
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		6
BSCI 30517	HUMAN ANATOMY	
or BSCI 30518	VERTEBRATE ANATOMY	
BSCI 40174	IMMUNOLOGY	
BSCI 40220	BIOINFORMATICS	
BTEC 40191	SEMINAR: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY	
CHEM 30106	ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY II	
CHEM 40109	BIOANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40264	MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40302	INORGANIC CHEMISTRY II	
CHEM 40365	BIOLOGICAL INORGANIC CHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40477	INTERMEDIATE ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABORATORY	
CHEM 40483	INTERMEDIATE ORGANIC CHEMISTRY	
CHEM 40796	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION ¹	
Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)		
PSYC 11762	GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (DIVD) (KSS)	3
SOC 12050	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (DIVD) (KSS)	3
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		15

¹ Maximum 3 credit hours of CHEM 40796 may be applied toward concentration electives.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
2.000	2.000

Foreign Language College Requirement, B.S.

- Students pursuing the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Sciences and Humanities must complete 8 credit hours of foreign language.¹
- [The following programs are exempt from this requirement: The Bachelor of Science in Cybercriminology and the Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science.](#)²
- Minimum Elementary I and II of the same language

¹ All students with prior foreign language experience should take the foreign language placement test to determine the appropriate level at which to start. Some students may start beyond the Elementary I level and will complete the requirement with fewer credit hours and courses. This may be accomplished by (1) passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level; (2) receiving credit through one of the alternative credit programs offered by Kent State University; or (3) demonstrating language proficiency comparable to Elementary II of a foreign language. When students complete the requirement with fewer than 8 credit hours and two courses, they will complete remaining credit hours with general electives.

² The Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science exemption exists under another college policy (Three-Plus-One Programs). The Bachelor of Science in Cybercriminology exemption is due to its

extensive collaboration with and contribution from the Information Technology program in the College of Applied and Technical Studies, which does not have a foreign language requirement.

Roadmaps

Additional Requirements for Students Not Declaring a Concentration

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. Students will work with their advisor to develop a sequence based on their academic goals and history. Courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One		Credits
!	BSCI 10120 BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS (ELR) (KBS) (KLAB)	4
!	CHEM 10060 GENERAL CHEMISTRY I (KBS) or CHEM 10970 or HONORS GENERAL CHEMISTRY I (KBS) or CHEM 11060 or GENERAL CHEMISTRY I BOOST (KBS)	4-6
!	CHEM 10062 GENERAL CHEMISTRY I LABORATORY (KBS) (KLAB)	1
!	MATH 12002 ANALYTIC GEOMETRY AND CALCULUS I (KMCR) or MATH 12021 or CALCULUS FOR LIFE SCIENCES	4-5
	UC 10001 FLASHES 101	1
	Kent Core Requirement	3
Credit Hours		17
Semester Two		Credits
!	CHEM 10061 GENERAL CHEMISTRY II (KBS) or CHEM 10971 or HONORS GENERAL CHEMISTRY II (KBS)	4
!	CHEM 10063 GENERAL CHEMISTRY II LABORATORY (KBS) (KLAB)	1
!	MATH 12022 PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS FOR LIFE SCIENCES or MATH 30011 or BASIC PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS	3
	Foreign Language	4
	Kent Core Requirement	3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Three		Credits
!	BSCI 30156 ELEMENTS OF GENETICS	3
!	CHEM 30475 ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABORATORY I (ELR)	1
!	CHEM 30481 ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I	3
	Physics Electives	5
	Foreign Language	4
Credit Hours		16
Semester Four		Credits
!	BSCI 30140 CELL BIOLOGY	4
!	CHEM 30301 INORGANIC CHEMISTRY I	3
!	CHEM 30476 ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABORATORY II	1
!	CHEM 30482 ORGANIC CHEMISTRY II	3
	Physics Electives	5
Credit Hours		16
Semester Five		Credits
!	CHEM 30105 ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY I	3
!	CHEM 30107 ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY I (WIC)	1

!	CHEM 40261 BIOCHEMISTRY: BIOMOLECULE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION	3
!	CHEM 40567 PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY FOR LIFE SCIENCES	4
	Kent Core Requirement	3
Credit Hours		14
Semester Six		Credits
!	CHEM 40262 BIOCHEMISTRY: METABOLISM AND GENE EXPRESSION	3
!	CHEM 40568 ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY	1
	Kent Core Requirement	3
	Kent Core Requirement	3
	Kent Core Requirement	3
Credit Hours		13
Semester Seven		Credits
!	BSCI 30171 GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY	4
	Major Electives	6
	Kent Core Requirement	3
	Kent Core Requirement	3
Credit Hours		16
Semester Eight		Credits
!	CHEM 40251 ADVANCED BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY (WIC)	2
!	CHEM 40263 PHYSICAL BIOCHEMISTRY	3
	Major Elective	3
	General Electives	5
Credit Hours		13
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120

Pre-Medicine/Pre-Osteopathy/Pre-Dentistry/Pre-Podiatric Medicine Concentration

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. Students will work with their advisor to develop a sequence based on their academic goals and history. Courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One		Credits
!	BSCI 10120 BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS (ELR) (KBS) (KLAB)	4
!	CHEM 10060 GENERAL CHEMISTRY I (KBS) or CHEM 10970 or HONORS GENERAL CHEMISTRY I (KBS) or CHEM 11060 or GENERAL CHEMISTRY I BOOST (KBS)	4-6
!	CHEM 10062 GENERAL CHEMISTRY I LABORATORY (KBS) (KLAB)	1
!	MATH 12002 ANALYTIC GEOMETRY AND CALCULUS I (KMCR) or MATH 12021 or CALCULUS FOR LIFE SCIENCES	4-5
	PSYC 11762 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (DIVD) (KSS)	3
	UC 10001 FLASHES 101	1
Credit Hours		17
Semester Two		Credits
!	CHEM 10061 GENERAL CHEMISTRY II (KBS) or CHEM 10971 or HONORS GENERAL CHEMISTRY II (KBS)	4
!	CHEM 10063 GENERAL CHEMISTRY II LABORATORY (KBS) (KLAB)	1

!	MATH 12022 or MATH 30011	PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS FOR LIFE SCIENCES or BASIC PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS	3
	SOC 12050	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (DIVD) (KSS)	3
	Foreign Language		4
Credit Hours			15
Semester Three			
!	BSCI 30156	ELEMENTS OF GENETICS	3
!	CHEM 30475	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABORATORY I (ELR)	1
!	CHEM 30481	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I	3
	Physics Electives		5
	Foreign Language		4
Credit Hours			16
Semester Four			
!	BSCI 30140	CELL BIOLOGY	4
!	CHEM 30301	INORGANIC CHEMISTRY I	3
!	CHEM 30476	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABORATORY II	1
!	CHEM 30482	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY II	3
	Physics Electives		5
Credit Hours			16
Semester Five			
!	BSCI 30171	GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY	4
!	CHEM 40261	BIOCHEMISTRY: BIOMOLECULE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION	3
!	CHEM 40567	PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY FOR LIFE SCIENCES	4
	Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours			14
Semester Six			
!	BSCI 40430 or BSCI 40460	ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY or ADVANCED HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY	3
!	CHEM 40262	BIOCHEMISTRY: METABOLISM AND GENE EXPRESSION	3
!	CHEM 40568	ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY	1
	Kent Core Requirement		3
	Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours			13
Semester Seven			
!	CHEM 30105	ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY I	3
!	CHEM 30107	ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY I (WIC)	1
	Concentration Elective		3
	Kent Core Requirement		3
	Kent Core Requirement		3
	Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours			16
Semester Eight			
!	CHEM 40251	ADVANCED BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY (WIC)	2
!	CHEM 40263	PHYSICAL BIOCHEMISTRY	3
	Concentration Elective		3
	General Electives		5
Credit Hours			13
Minimum Total Credit Hours:			120

University Requirements

All students in a bachelor's degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

NOTE: University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

Flashes 101 (UC 10001)	1 credit hour
Course is not required for students with 30+ transfer credits (excluding College Credit Plus) or age 21+ at time of admission.	
Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)	varies
Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.	
Kent Core (see table below)	36-37 credit hours
Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)	1 course
Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.	
Upper-Division Requirement	39 credit hours
Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate.	
Total Credit Hour Requirement	120 credit hours

Kent Core Requirements

Kent Core Composition (KCMP)	6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR)	3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each)	9
Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines)	6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory)	6-7
Kent Core Additional (KADL)	6
Total Credit Hours:	36-37

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Apply broad-based chemical and biochemical knowledge to their profession.
2. Develop their abilities to plan and execute chemical and biochemical experiments.
3. Prepare and deliver written and oral scientific reports.

Program Policies Foreign Language Requirements

In general, students may elect any foreign language taught through the Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies. However, certain majors, concentrations and minors require specific languages or limit the languages from which students may choose. In addition, students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular languages for that study. In such cases, students should seek the advice of the appropriate department before selecting a language.

Progress Toward Fulfillment

College of Sciences and Humanities students are encouraged to begin meeting the foreign language requirement as early as possible in their program to ensure timely degree completion.

Mandatory Outcomes Assessment

In addition to the other General Requirements of the college, candidates for an undergraduate degree in the College of Sciences and Humanities are required, as a condition of graduation, to participate in an outcomes assessment. These outcomes assessments are conducted by each undergraduate degree program in the College of Sciences and Humanities.

Full Description

The Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry provides strong preparation for students interested in pursuing graduate studies in biochemistry or medicine or planning a career as a practicing biochemist in industrial research and development, government research laboratories or academia.

With the selection of appropriate elective courses, students in the Biochemistry major meet the minimum requirements for certification by the American Chemical Society.

The Biochemistry major includes the following optional concentration:

- The **Pre-Medicine/Pre-Osteopathy/Pre-Dentistry/Pre-Podiatric Medicine** concentration is the recommended track for students preparing for careers in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, physician assisting or podiatry.

Students interested in careers in pharmacy have the opportunity to earn this B.S. degree while completing their studies towards a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED). After three years at Kent State, students may apply to and attend NEOMED, and then transfer 20 credit hours of courses from NEOMED to complete their Kent State Biochemistry requirements.

Biochemistry students may apply early to the M.S. degree in Chemistry and double count 9 credit hours of graduate courses toward both degree programs. See the Combined Bachelor's/Master's Degree Program Policy in the University Catalog for more information.