Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biosciences

Molecular Biosciences

A bachelor’s degree in molecular biosciences offers students a strong background in genetics, microbiology, cell biology, and biochemistry, as well as hands-on lab experience. Many students in this program continue on to pursue medical, dental or pharmacy school, or graduate work in the health sciences with high success rates.

The KU Edwards Molecular Biosciences program is designed for undergraduate students who have already earned an associate’s degree or equivalent hours and are looking to complete the last two years necessary for a bachelor’s degree.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Unless they are college transfer students with at least 24 hours of credit, prospective students must send ACT or SAT scores to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (http://admissions.ku.edu) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the International Support Services (http://www.iss.ku.edu) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of Admissions (http://credittransfer.ku.edu) website.

Admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Admission to the College is a different process from admission to a major field. Some CLAS departments have admission requirements. See individual department/program sections for departmental admission requirements.

First- and Second-Year Preparation

Because biology study requires preparation in other sciences, students should begin meeting major requirements in the first year. It is particularly important to take CHEM 130 and CHEM 135 in the first year and, for several majors, to take CHEM 330, CHEM 331, CHEM 335, and CHEM 336 in the second year. Ideally, most majors should also take BIOL 150 and BIOL 152 during the first year, as well as BIOL 105.

Molecular Biosciences

KU Edwards Campus

The undergraduate program in molecular biosciences is offered in its entirety only at the KU Edwards Campus (http://edwardscampus.ku.edu), 12600 Quivira Rd., Overland Park, KS 66213. This program is designed for students who have earned an associate’s degree or equivalent hours and wish to complete the upper-level courses necessary for a bachelor’s degree.

Requirements for the B.S. Degree in Molecular Biosciences

The program offers students a strong background in genetics, microbiology, cell biology, and biochemistry, as well as laboratory skills in genetics and microbiology. Graduates have entered medical school, dental school, and graduate school with high success rates. Contact the CLAS undergraduate advisor on the Edwards Campus, Sandra Leppin, sandra.leppin@ku.edu, 913-897-8511, for more information.

General Education Requirements

In addition to degree and major requirements for all plans and subplans, all students must complete the KU Core.
Molecular Biosciences Course Requirements

Molecular & Cellular Biology. Satisfied by:
- BIOL 150 Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology 4
- or BIOL 151 Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Honors

Principles of Organismal Biology. Satisfied by:
- BIOL 152 Principles of Organismal Biology 4
- or BIOL 153 Principles of Organismal Biology, Honors

Principles of Genetics. Satisfied by:
- BIOL 350 Principles of Genetics 4
- or BIOL 360 Principles of Genetics, Honors

Fundamentals of Microbiology. Satisfied by:
- BIOL 400 Fundamentals of Microbiology 3-4
- or BIOL 401 Fundamentals of Microbiology, Honors

Fundamentals of Microbiology Laboratory. Satisfied by:
- BIOL 402 Fundamentals of Microbiology Laboratory 2

Laboratory in Genetics. Satisfied by:
- BIOL 405 Laboratory in Genetics 3

Cell Structure & Function. Satisfied by:
- BIOL 416 Cell Structure and Function 3
- or BIOL 536 Cell Structure and Function (Honors)

Molecular Biology Laboratory. Satisfied by:
- BIOL 430 Laboratory in Molecular Biology 3

Introductory Biochemistry. Satisfied by:
- BIOL 600 Introductory Biochemistry, Lectures 3

Principles of Biochemistry Laboratory. Satisfied by:
- BIOL 601 Principles of Biochemistry Laboratory 2

Senior Seminar in Molecular Biosciences
Satisfied by:
- BIOL 599 Senior Seminar: _____ (Must be taken in senior year. Offered only at the Edwards Campus.) 1

Molecular Bioscience Required Electives
Satisfied by completing 12 hours of BIOL courses numbered 400 or higher or BTEC 300, 310, 400, 475, 494, or 550, including at least 2 hours of a seminar/topics course (BIOL 419, BIOL 420, BIOL 421, BIOL 701). No more than 3 hours of BIOL 423 Non-Lab Independent Study and/or BIOL 424 Independent Study (combined) can be applied towards the elective requirement.

Seminar. Satisfied by completing at least 2 hours of the following seminar or topics courses:
- BIOL 419 Topics in: _____
- BIOL 421 Topics in Molecular Biosciences: _____
- BIOL 420 Seminar: _____
- BIOL 701 Topics in: _____

Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours
Satisfied by 43-44 hours of major courses.

Major Hours in Residence
Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Hours
Satisfied by a minimum of 12 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA
Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F’s and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa).

Below is a sample 4-year plan for students pursuing the B.S. in Molecular Biosciences. To view the list of courses approved to fulfill KU Core Goals, please visit the KU Core website (http://kucore.ku.edu/courses).

This degree plan assumes students will have the equivalent of MATH 101 or MATH 104, or equivalent prior to the freshman year, fall semester.

The Molecular Biosciences major is only available at the Edwards campus in Overland Park, KS. The Edwards Campus only offers Junior/ Senior level courses (300+). Lower level courses (100-299) may need to be taken at the KU Lawrence campus or transferred in from another institution. Please consult an academic advisor for more assistance.

Freshman

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<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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Sophomore

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<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
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Junior

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<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 405 (Major Requirement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 400+ (Major Requirement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective (Total Hours)</td>
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Elective (Total Hours) (Elective hours vary depending on which PHSX is taken)

Senior Hours

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 4.2 Global Awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 365, BIOL 570, or PSYC 210 (General Science Requirement)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 400+ (Major Requirement)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 601 (Major Requirement)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 419, 420, 421, or 701 (Major Requirement)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective (Total Hours)</td>
<td>3</td>
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Total Hours 120-123

1. Requires MATH ACT scores of 26+, a comparable SAT or KU Math Placement Exam score, or credit for a MATH 101 or MATH 104 equivalent course. MATH 125 can be taken instead of MATH 115 and MATH 116 to fulfill the B.S. Molecular Biosciences math requirement.

2. Concurrent or prior enrollment in CHEM 130 is required.

3. CHEM 135 and CHEM 335 are offered only in the spring (Lawrence campus). BIOL 570 is offered only in the fall (Lawrence campus).

4. BIOL 350, BIOL 405, and BIOL 601 are offered only on the Edwards campus in the fall.

5. BIOL 400, BIOL 402, and BIOL 600 are offered on the Edwards campus in both spring and summer semesters.

6. BIOL 416, BIOL 430, and BIOL 599 are offered on the Edwards campus only in the spring.

7. Twelve hours of BIOL 400+ level elective and seminar courses, including at least 2 hours of seminar/topics course (BIOL 419, BIOL 420, BIOL 421, BIOL 701). No more than 3 hours of BIOL 423 and/or BIOL 424 (combined) can be applied towards the elective requirements.

Please note:

All students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are required to complete 120 total hours of which 45 hours must be at the Jr/Sr (300+) level.

The same course cannot be used to fulfill more than one KU Core Goal. However, overlap of a KU Core course with a major or degree-specific requirement is allowed. Overlapping is recommended to allow more opportunities to explore other majors and/or minors.

Departmental Honors

Undergraduate majors are eligible to graduate with honors in biology if they fulfill the following requirements:

1. Complete all course work required for the appropriate degree in biology.
2. Achieve a minimum grade-point average of 3.25 overall and 3.5 in the major.
3. Complete BIOL 499 Introduction to Honors Research with a grade of B or higher.
4. Complete BIOL 699 Biology Honors Research Colloquium with a grade of B or higher.
5. Complete an independent research project under the supervision of a faculty member in an area appropriate to the degree sought.
6. Submit an honors thesis to the honors committee once the research is complete and present the results of the completed research at the honors research symposium.

Students majoring in Human Biology with Anthropology, Applied Behavioral Science, Psychology, or Speech-Language-Hearing concentrations will follow the honors requirements for their respective concentration department.

Specific guidelines and intent forms are available in the Undergraduate Biology Program office and online (http://www.kuub.ku.edu). Candidates must declare their intent to graduate with honors at least 2 semesters before graduation.

Study Abroad

Consult an advisor at least 4 months before undertaking study abroad. Consult the Office of Study Abroad (http://www.studyabroad.ku.edu), 108 Lippincott Hall, for information about study in one of the many countries (e.g., Scotland, Australia, Switzerland) with special arrangements with KU.