

Typical MCB Major Four-Year Plan of Study

School of

Molecular and Cellular Biology

mcb.illinois.edu/undergrad/advising

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign



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Revised Feb. 2015

This plan is to be used only as a guideline. There are many factors that may affect the sequence and timing of courses. Course selections are best made in consultation with an MCB Advisor. For an appointment, visit 127 Burrill Hall, call (217) 333-6774 or use our online scheduling system at <https://mcb-uiucbioadvising.youcanbook.me/>.

FRESHMAN YEAR	
SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Intro Biology: MCB 150 or IB 150 (4 hrs) Chemistry: Begin general CHEM sequence per placement (3–5 hrs) Math: Begin MATH sequence per placement (3–5 hrs) or Composition I: RHET, CMN, ESL or equiv. (3–4 hrs) First Year Enrichment Course: LAS 101 or 122 (1 hr) Options: Language, Gen Ed., or Elective (0–5 hrs) TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 14–16	Intro Biology: MCB 150 or IB 150 (4 hrs) Chemistry: Continue general CHEM sequence (4 hrs) Math: Begin MATH sequence per placement (3–5 hrs) or Composition I: RHET, CMN, ESL or equiv. (3–4 hrs) Options: Language, Gen Ed., or Elective (0–5 hrs) TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 14–16
SOPHOMORE YEAR	
SEMESTER 3	SEMESTER 4
Molecular Genetics & Lab: MCB 250 & MCB 251 (5 hrs)* Chemistry: Finish general CHEM or begin organic CHEM (4–6 hrs) Math: Begin or continue if necessary (3–5 hrs) Options: Language, Gen Ed., Elective, or Research (0–5 hrs) TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 14–16	Cells, Tissues & Develop. & Lab: MCB 252 & MCB 253 (5 hrs) Chemistry: Finish organic CHEM, if necessary (2–6 hrs) or Physics: PHYS 101 or 211, if CHEM complete (4–5 hrs) Options: Language, Gen Ed., Elective, or Research (0–5 hrs) TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 14–16
JUNIOR YEAR	
SEMESTER 5	SEMESTER 6
Biochemistry: MCB 354 (3 hrs) Physics: Begin or continue PHYS sequence (4–5 hrs) Choose 2–3 of the following: (6–9 hrs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research: MCB 290 • Continue CHEM, if necessary for minor or profession • General Education Course • Elective Course TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 14–16	Advanced MCB course or lab: See approved list** (1–4 hrs) Physics: Continue PHYS sequence, if necessary (4–5 hrs) Choose 2–3 of the following: (6–9 hrs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research: MCB 290 • Additional Advanced MCB Course • General Education Course • Elective Course TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 14–16
SENIOR YEAR	
SEMESTER 7	SEMESTER 8
2 Advanced MCB courses or lab: See approved list** (5–8 hrs) Choose 2 of the following: (6–8 hrs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research: MCB 290 • Additional Advanced MCB Course • General Education Course • Elective Course TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 14–16	2 Advanced MCB courses or lab: See approved list** (5–8 hrs) Choose 2 of the following: (6–8 hrs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research or Senior Thesis: MCB 290 or MCB 492 • Additional Advanced MCB Course • General Education Course • Elective Course TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 14–16

* General Chemistry 1 and 2 lectures (CHEM 102 and CHEM 104) must be completed before beginning MCB 250.

** Only courses taken from the approved advanced courses list, which can be found at <http://mcb.illinois.edu/undergrad/courses/advanced/> will count towards the MCB advanced hour requirement (15 hours needed, including 1 lab). Graduate level courses (500- or 600-level) will NOT count towards the advanced MCB requirement.