

Guide to Transferring to MCB

MCB Advising Contact Information

Phone: (217) 333-6774

E-mail: advising@mcb.illinois.edu

Office Location: The School of MCB advising center is in room 200 Burrill Hall (enter through 101 Burrill Hall, Learning Center).

View our [SMCB advising web page](#) and meet with an advisor for more detailed information.

Subscribe to our [Road MAP, weekly e-newsletter](#) for up to date information relevant to our students.

How To Make an Appointment

Please call 217-333-6774 during normal business hours (8:30am to 5:00pm), stop by room 200 Burrill Hall, or use our [online scheduler](#) to make an appointment with the advisor of your choice. Students in MCB are *not assigned an advisor*, but are free to meet with any of the MCB advisors that are available (see [staff bios here](#)).

ICT Requirements: Current Illinois undergraduates who wish to ICT into the College of LAS and declare MCB as a major, must first attend an [LAS information session](#), apply online and attend an MCB [informational meeting](#). To be accepted into the major, students must obtain approval from the school of MCB. The school broadly evaluates transfer candidates according to the following three requirements:

1. MCB major GPA of 2.50 or higher, based on at least one full semester of course work at Illinois.
2. MCB 150 and at least one general chemistry lecture completed with grades of C or higher in each individual course.
3. Attendance at an MCB [informational meeting](#).

Prerequisite/Placement score information:

<u>Biology AP Exam Score</u>	<u>Course Credited</u>	<u>Credit hour</u>
3 or 4	IB 100	3
5	Integrative Biology 150 and Molecular and Cell Biology 150	8

Important: please discuss use of Biology AP credit with an MCB advisor as we typically advise against using MCB 150 credit if you are going to major in MCB.

Preferred introductory course or courses:

MCB 150 (Molec & Cellular Basis of Life), highly recommended to be taken on this campus. Please note: AP credit may NOT be sufficient preparation for more advanced courses in this major. A placement exam is available that will assist students in evaluating their readiness to begin the MCB Core Courses. See a MCB advisor for more information.

IB 150 (Organismal & Evolutionary Biol), AP credit or equivalent credit from other universities is sufficient for this introductory course but may not be sufficient for professional schools.

Successful students in MCB earn a C+ or better in both introductory Biology courses.

Required supporting courses:

CHEM 102, 103, 104 and 105, Two semesters of general chemistry is required for the major and at least one semester is required prior to ICT. Successful students in MCB earn a C+ or better in all general chemistry courses. *All general chemistry must be complete before enrolling in MCB 250.*

Official degree requirements

The following MCB core courses must be taken sequentially as listed below. Students should complete one set of courses successfully (C or better) before moving on to the next.

MCB 250 (Molecular Genetics) and MCB 251 (lab) should be completed prior to MCB 252 (Cells, Tissues & Devel.) and MCB 253 (lab) should be completed prior to MCB 354 (Biochem & Phys Basis of Life)

Important general education and supporting courses:

MATH 220 or 221 – 1 semester of calculus is required for all MCB majors before graduation. *Please note: MATH 234 (Calculus for Business) will NOT fulfill the MCB requirement.*

2nd Quantitative Reasoning Course: MCB students must take one additional math or statistics course in addition to calculus I. They may choose from the following:

MATH 231 (Calculus II) **or**

STAT 212 (Biostatistics)

Please note: no other stat class will be accepted to fulfill the MCB 2nd math course.

Other Considerations:

Study Abroad – MCB students are encouraged to study abroad as time allows. Students typically study abroad during their summer semesters or during their junior year. It is difficult to find equivalents to the MCB core courses abroad, but the MCB instructional program has developed [discipline-specific study abroad programs](#) that allow students to take courses towards their degree programs.

Honors -- The MCB Honors Concentration is designed for exceptional MCB Majors who demonstrate personal motivation to explore a fuller complement of experiences in biology during their undergraduate training. MCB honors students typically plan to enter graduate or professional programs to reach their career goals and want an intensive undergraduate education as preparation.

Honors students must

- fulfill all normal requirements of the MCB major;
- complete honors literature and lab sections (MCB 297 a, b, and c + MCB 298 a and b)
- complete four or more additional Advanced Honors Courses or experiences, typically taken as Juniors and Seniors (although Honors students are encouraged to begin MCB 290 research sooner);
- maintain minimum grade point averages, as required, based upon entry date into the Honors Concentration (see Honors Coordinator or [website](#) for details);
- other requirements may apply.

Interested students should attend an information session or meet with Shawna Naidu, Honors Coordinator.

Research Opportunities -- Students in MCB are encouraged to gain undergraduate research experience. Once students find a faculty mentor, they are able to earn course credit via MCB 290 Undergraduate Research. Students earn 1 credit hour for every 5 hours per week spent in the lab. They're encouraged to search for a faculty mentor during their sophomore year or early junior year. With a minimum of two semesters of MCB 290 credit, MCB students can enroll for MCB 492 Senior Thesis during their final semester. View our [website](#) for more specific information.