



Welcome

Department of Biochemistry

Orientation 2015

B.Sc. Degree – 120 credits

1. Advanced Standing / CEGEP Credits / Freshman Credits
+
2. Program Credits (Major, Liberal, Honours)
+
3. (Optional)
Minor Program Credits
Major Concentration
Second Core Science Component
+
4. Elective Credits (if needed)



Course Load

The normal course load is 4-5 courses (12-15 credits) per term; a full year is normally 30 credits. If you are not sure how many credits to register for each term or for the academic year, keep the following regulations in mind:

- o 12 credits per term to maintain full-time status, eligibility for student visas, loans and bursaries;
- o up to 14 credits (4 courses) maximum per term for students in probationary standing;
- o up to 17 credits per term for students in satisfactory standing;

Advanced Standing / CEGEP Credits

<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/transfercredit/>

- o Any advanced standing that you receive will be listed on your unofficial transcript on Minerva.

If you get 30 credits (1 year) advanced standing coming from CEGEP, you are in a 3-year degree, with 90 credits to complete

And

You may have been exempted from certain courses due to your CEGEP studies:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/transfercredit/prospective/cegep/#specific>

- o CHEM 212, 222
- o MATH 203, 222

If that is the case, please replace those credits with electives.

Programs:

Liberal

Liberal Biochemistry – 47 credits

o This is the most **flexible** of departmental programs offered. Core Science Component

+

o Breadth Component

(at least 18 credits):

o Minor Program (18-24 credits)

o Arts Minor/Major (18/36 credits)

o A second CSC (45-50 credits); at least 24 credits must be distinct from those used to satisfy the primary CSC.



Major

Major Biochemistry – 64 credits

- o This program becomes **more specialized** in Biochemistry during the final two years.

Interested in Honours?

Register for the Major program in U1



Honours

Honours Biochemistry – **73 credits** (ONLY in U2)

- o This program in Biochemistry combines the substantial background given by the Major program with a challenging opportunity to **carry out laboratory research** projects in the U3 year.
- o Send an email in U2 to christine.laberge@mcgill.ca and you will be advised if you can declare honours.

What is a Minor?

Explore a second area of interest! (**OPTIONAL**)

<http://www.mcgill.ca/science/programs>

- o You may use your elective courses to pursue an 18 to 24 credit minor in a subject area different from your major. You can pursue your minor within the Faculty of Science, or many other faculties, including Arts. (In Arts, a minor is known as a "minor concentration.")
- o **Meet with minor department.**
 - o May have to apply
 - o Find out about overlap credits.

What is an Elective?

Electives allow you to explore interests outside your core program, gain exposure to a wider world!

- o Electives are courses taken for academic credit but which are not required for your degree. In this regard they differ from required or complementary courses.
- o Make sure that the course you wish to take is acceptable for credit, see “Restricted Courses outside the Faculty of Science” at:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/science/student/continuingstudents/bsc/outside>

Important Dates to Remember

**Deadline to drop courses or select S/U Option:
September 22**

<http://www.mcgill.ca/importantdates/>

- o Please make sure to check the website for all “important dates”**

General Important Information:

- **Passing Grade:** All **REQUIRED** and **COMPLEMENTARY** courses listed in your program must be passed with a “C” or better. “D” is a failure. If you receive a grade of “D”, this can be considered as one of your electives and then you can choose another complementary course from the list.
- **Complementary Courses:** are **REQUIRED** courses for your program, they are not elective courses.
- **S/U Option:** You may choose to have a final grades of S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) for one of your elective courses. This option cannot be used for required courses, including complementary courses. The decision to have an elective courses graded as S/U must be made before the end of ADD/DROP.
- **Failed a REQUIRED or COMPLEMENTARY course?** You have two options:
 - Apply to write a supplemental exam or
 - Repeat the courseIf you fail a complementary course and receive a final grade of “D” you have three options:
 - Apply to write a supplemental exam or
 - Repeat the course or
 - Since a D is a pass for an elective , you can choose another course from the list.
- **SICK during a midterm or final exam-What should you do?** If you miss a midterm exam due to illness, you must bring your doctor’s note to the office, Room 905 (within the 2 week period of the midterm date). If you miss a final exam due to illness, then you apply on Minerva to write a deferred exam.
- **Thinking Ahead: which courses should I take in order to leave the option of Medical School open?** Students who wish to leave the option of applying to medical school open should be aware that they can choose to complete any of the Science Majors (not only the biological or life sciences ones). Most medical schools look for a diverse applicant pool, and all of the Science programs provide ample room to include medical school prerequisite courses (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/science/prospective/medical>)
- Familiarize yourself with University Regulations and Resources <http://www.mcgill.ca/study/2015-2016>

Need Help?

- **ADVISING:** Christine Laberge, McIntyre 905, christine.laberge@mcgill.ca
- **Make your schedule work for you!**
Review your course syllabus before the ADD/DROP period to help plan your semester.
- **REGISTRATION/COURSE QUESTIONS:** Maria Dimas, McIntyre 905, undergrad.biochem@mcgill.ca
- **SERVICE POINT:**
 - Hours and Location**
 - Monday to Friday: 10am - 4pm**
 - Wednesdays: 10am - 5pm**

 - McLennan Library Building**
(street level)
3415 McTavish Street
(corner Sherbrooke)

Questions?

