Program Overview
The B.A. and B.S. degrees in biochemistry are offered through the department of chemistry and are designed for students interested in the applications of chemistry to the life sciences. The B.A. program prepares students for professional schools such as medicine, dentistry, law and pharmacy. The B.S. program provides excellent preparation for students interested in working in biochemistry, molecular biology or biotechnology.

The department of chemistry at Saint Louis University places great emphasis on participation in undergraduate research, and both B.S. and B.A. majors have ample opportunities to involve themselves in research projects under the close mentorship of a full-time faculty member. Students will have the opportunity to use a variety of specialized equipment and computers in their instructional and research laboratories.

Selected undergraduate students may have opportunities to work with faculty members as laboratory assistants in undergraduate laboratories. The undergraduate lab assistant receives a stipend for this activity.

The department hosts several social events each year and sponsors a Chemistry Club for interested students.

Degree(s)
+ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in biochemistry
+ Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in biochemistry

About the Faculty
Faculty in the department of chemistry are strongly committed to undergraduate participation in their research programs. Chemistry research programs span a range of topics including bioanalytical chemistry, biochemistry, nanomaterials, photochemistry, theory and computational chemistry, and chemical synthesis. All faculty hold doctoral degrees.

Curriculum
+ First year: General Chemistry I and II, Calculus I and II, Principles of Biology I and II
+ Second year: Organic Chemistry I and II, Analytical Chemistry I
+ Third year: Biochemistry I and II, Engineering Physics I and II
+ Fourth year: Principles of Genetics, Physical Chemistry I or II, two chemistry electives, senior residency

Bachelor of Science
+ First year: General Chemistry I and II, Calculus I and II, Principles of Biology I and II
+ Second year: Organic Chemistry I and II, Analytical Chemistry I, Engineering Physics I and II
+ Third year: Biochemistry I and II, Chemistry Literature, Inorganic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry I and II, Physical Chemistry Lab, undergraduate research
+ Fourth year: Principles of Genetics, undergraduate research, one chemistry elective, senior residency

For more information about our faculty, visit slu.edu/x15726.xml.

Learn More For course listings and more information about our faculty, visit slu.edu/x15726.xml.

Revised April 2015
Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

Internships and Careers

Selected undergraduate students can apply to work with faculty in undergraduate laboratories as laboratory assistants. Lab assistants receive a stipend.

Career options in biochemistry include:

+ Teaching at the university, college or high school level
+ Chemical research and development in industry or government laboratories
+ Pharmaceutical research
+ Drug discovery and drug development
+ Biotechnology
+ Environmental research
+ Management and administration in the chemical industry
+ Chemical and pharmaceutical sales
+ Patent law and environmental law
+ Opportunities in the public health sector

A degree in biochemistry is good preparation for students wishing to continue their post-baccalaureate education in graduate schools of chemistry, biochemistry and health-related areas such as pharmacology and toxicology, as well as in professional schools of medicine, law, pharmacy or dentistry.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.