



Chemistry and Biochemistry

Special Points of Interest

- Competitive Awards and Academic Scholarships
- Opportunities in Research and Professional Career Tracks
- Professional Chemical Honor Societies

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Interested in Chemistry and Biochemistry?

About the Major

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Oklahoma offers three undergraduate degrees that prepare students for entry into graduate programs or a variety of careers as well as a new Chemical Biosciences degree for health profession students. The fundamental courses in each of the three main degrees overlap, so it is usually easy for students to switch from one degree to another within the first two to two-and-a-half years of study. The requirements for the Chemical Biosciences do differ starting in the sophomore year of study.



Scholarships and Awards

Annual CRC Press Chemistry Award

Phillips Petroleum Award for Outstanding Research

Robert E. and Mary B. Sturgis Scholarship

Herbert A. and Lela Mitchell Berlin Scholarship

Alvin Terrell Dixon Memorial Scholarship

Corinne Price Scholarship

Clubs and Organizations

Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SAACS). SAACS is an undergraduate organization at the University of Oklahoma that supports students and faculty and promotes academic achievement, peer based learning, and significant involvement in the department.

Summer Research Programs

Summer undergraduate research programs are referred to with a variety of titles. These include Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP), Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE), Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), and Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU). All of these refer to the same type of program, a summer research position in which students receive a stipend (and sometimes additional funding) for performing research.

Some programs are aimed at students with experience in a specific area, others are open to students with no research experience. Many are limited to U.S. citizens or permanent residents (usually funded by the NSF), but some are open to international students. Some have higher GPA requirements and increased course requirements.

Chemistry and Biochemistry Research

Performing research as an undergraduate is highly recommended by the department. This hands-on experience will not only increase the students' understanding of their coursework, but will also benefit them when they seek employment or continued education. Research provides them with experience and skills that employers desire. Also, having done research will aid them should they decide to apply to graduate school.

Students interested in gaining research experience should find something they are interested in by searching for professors with the same research aspirations or other local opportunities such as the OU Health Sciences Center. Faculty WebPages should have descriptions of their current research projects. Students should make a list of faculty performing research that they find interesting, and then contact the faculty to ask about possible openings in their labs. There is no formal application process. Students performing research within the department can receive academic credit by enrolling in the designated course for internship and research.