



Agricultural Biotechnology

College of Agriculture

Agricultural biotechnology encompasses cellular and molecular approaches to the manipulation and improvement of agricultural plants, animals and microorganisms, and the control of agricultural pests and diseases. The primary purpose of the baccalaureate degree program in Agricultural Biotechnology is to train students in modern cellular and molecular biology and genetic engineering. Students will be provided with a firm foundation in the principles of genetics and molecular biology of both prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms. Each student will then specialize in an area appropriate to his or her interest and career objectives, including: microbial, fungal, plant, insect and mammalian biotechnology.

Graduates will be prepared to assume government, university, and industry positions with research and technology applications to agriculture and food production. Employment opportunities include research scientists, laboratory technicians or managers in university, government, industrial, or clinical laboratories using biotechnological tools for research and production. Examples of research areas include: gene cloning, construction of novel pest and disease resistance genes, development of new immunological and nucleic acid types of diagnostic probes for plant and animal disease, genetic engineering of microorganisms for the production of important pharmaceutical agents, and development of new bioengineered strains of microorganisms for fermentation and food production services. Students will also be prepared to enter graduate programs in agriculture, molecular biology, and the biological sciences.

Graduation Requirements

To earn a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Biotechnology the student must complete 132 semester hours with at least a 2.0 grade-point standing. A minimum of 48 credit hours must be from upper division courses (300 and above). Remedial courses may not be counted toward the total hours required for the degree. In addition to the University Studies requirements, students must complete college, premajor, major, and specialty support requirements, including an independent research project relevant to the student's interest in biotechnology.

College Requirements

ABT 101 Introduction to Biotechnology and	
ABT 201 Scientific Method in Biotechnology and	
ABT 401 Technical Writing and Presentations	
in Biotechnology	4
or	
ENG 203 Business Writing	3
or	
ENG 204 Technical Writing	3
GEN 100 Issues in Agriculture:	
The Development of Modern Agriculture*	3
GEN 200 Issues in Agriculture: Contemporary Problems in	
Agriculture and Natural Resources*	3

*These courses also satisfy the University Studies Oral Communication requirement.

In addition, the student must submit a proposed plan of study for the junior and senior years.

Premajor Requirements

Mathematics	
MA 123 Elementary Calculus and Its Applications	3
MA 132 Calculus for the Life Sciences	3
or	
MA 113 Calculus I	4
Biology	
BIO 150/152 Principles of Biology I and II	6
BIO 151/153 Principles of Biology Laboratory I and II	4
Chemistry	
CHE 105/107 General College Chemistry I and II	6
CHE 115 General Chemistry Laboratory	3
CHE 230/232 Organic Chemistry I and II	6
CHE 231/233 Organic Chemistry Laboratory I and II	4
Physics	
PHY 211/213 General Physics	10
(or equivalent with laboratory)	

Major Requirements

Students must take a minimum of 24 credit hours:

Biotechnology	
ABT 101 Introduction to Biotechnology	1
ABT 201 Scientific Method in Biotechnology	1
ABT 401 Technical Writing and Presentations in	
Biotechnology	2
Microbiology	
BIO 208/209 Principles of Microbiology and Laboratory	5
Biochemistry	
BCH 401G Fundamentals of Biochemistry	3
or	
BCH 501 and 502 General Biochemistry	6
Genetics	
ABT/ASC/ENT 360 Genetics	3
or	
BIO 304 Principles of Genetics	4
ABT 460/461 Introduction to Molecular and	
Population Genetics	4
Statistics	
STA 291 Statistical Method	3
Advanced Practical Skills	
ABT 495 Experimental Methods in Biotechnology	4
or	
BIO 510 Recombinant DNA Techniques Laboratory	4

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Independent Study

ABT 395 Independent Study in Biotechnology 3

or

ABT 399 Experiential Learning in Biotechnology 3

All students are expected to undertake an independent study project in an area of their interest for a minimum of 3 credit hours. This requirement can be met by a research project or an internship that is agreed upon by a student's advisor and approved by the Biotechnology Coordinating Committee prior to initiation of the project. Both written and oral reports are required when the project is completed.

Specialty Support

Students must take a minimum of 21 credit hours of specialty support courses including at least one of the courses listed below. A number of the courses listed here may have additional prerequisites. Additional specialty support courses will be selected according to the student's area of interest with approval of the academic advisor.

ASC 364 Reproductive Physiology of Farm Animals	3
BIO 315 Introduction to Cell Biology	3
BIO 350 Animal Physiology	4
BIO 430G Plant Physiology	3
BIO 476G General Microbial Physiology	4
BIO/PGY 502 Principles of Systems, Cellular and Molecular Physiology	5
BIO 515 General Cell Biology	3
BIO 550 Comparative Physiology	3
BIO 580 Metabolism of Microorganisms	4
PGY/MI 590 Cellular and Molecular Physiology	4

Electives

Electives should be selected to complete the 132 hours required for graduation.