Biochemistry & Biotechnology

Where can you go with a Biochemistry & Biotechnology Degree?

A degree in Biochemistry & Biotechnology can take your career in many directions. Most students choose to enter the workforce right after graduation, and many continue their education after a few years in the workforce. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for a career as a(n): Biochemist, Biochemical Engineer, Biotechnologist, Clinical Research Specialist, Food Scientist, Epidemiologist, Materials Scientist, and various careers in the Health Science field including Doctor, Pharmacist, Psychiatrist, Physical Therapist, etc.

First Year

Academics

- Start taking **LASC** courses as well as foundational and core art history courses.
- Need a little help in your classes? Look into **tutoring with the Academic Success Center**.
- Look into the many **experiential learning opportunities** to help build a well-rounded experience

On-Campus Experience

- Sign up to participate in the **Science & Health Learning Community**.
- Join a major or interest-specific student organization such as the **Chemistry & Biochemistry Club**.

Connect to the Community

- Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations. Begin to look into research opportunities including undergraduate research alongside faculty members, or through the **National Science Foundation**.
- Attend the on-campus **Employer Visits** as often as possible. Make sure to engage with the representatives and collect contact information to follow up.

Understand Your Career

- Start researching potential career paths on **O*Net**. Here, you can find valuable information, including typical tasks associated with the profession, the skills and knowledge required, the necessary education and licensures, wages and employment trends, professional organizations, and related occupations. Search for careers such as a **Biochemist**.

Second Year

Academics

- Take a deeper dive into the discipline of Biochemistry & Biotechnology and begin considering an emphasis in **Biological Chemistry** or **Molecular Biology**.
- Explore interdisciplinary and research-focused classes such as **BCBT 360** as well as other seminars, and participate in the **Student Academic Conference**.

On-Campus Experience

- Find an on-campus job or begin your leadership journey by applying for a student leadership position. Visit **Handshake** to see open positions. Explore **out-of-class learning**, including researching and learning assistantships.
- Find time to participate in events and activities. See a list of upcoming opportunities in **DragonCentral**.

Connect to the Community

- Attend the on-campus **Employer Visits** as often as possible. Make sure to engage with the representatives and collect contact information to follow up.

Understand Your Career

- Schedule an appointment with the **Career Development Center** for career planning to learn how to make the most of your time here at MSUM.

Third Year

Academics

- In addition to getting your access code, schedule an appointment with your Academic Advisor to ensure you're on track for graduation.
- Take inventory of your professional goals and decide if your future will need to include graduate school. Take the necessary exams and keep track of application timelines.

On-Campus Experience

- Continue developing leadership skills by exploring officer position in your student organization like the **Chemistry & Biochemistry Club** or running for student senate.
- Explore **research opportunities or apply to be a learning assistant**. Participate in the **Student Academic Conference**.

Connect to the Community

- Attend **off-campus events** such as the **BioScience Summit** hosted by the Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development Corporation.
- Assist faculty with outreach demos or participate in a **study abroad experience** specific to this degree.

Understand Your Career

- **Attend professional development-related events** on campus, and connect with faculty to learn more about the field and gain insights on how to be successful in your job search.
- Find an internship or part-time job with a local or regional company or organization to learn the ins and outs of your chosen career. Apply to participate in a **Research Experience for Undergrads**.

Fourth Year

Academics

- Participate in the **Student Academic Conference** to showcase research, connect with employers, and to boost your resume.
- Ensure you submit your application for graduation on time and complete the graduate follow-up survey, letting us know your career or continuing education plans.

On-Campus Experience

- Assess what experiences or skills are areas of growth for you and fill in gaps with volunteering, organizations, or internships. Continue out-of-class learning opportunities, including researching or learning assistantships.

Connect to the Community

- Join professional organizations such as **the American Chemistry Council** to gain access to research, continuing education opportunities, job boards, and message boards. Be sure to join before graduation to receive the discounted student rate (when applicable). Get involved in a community organization such as the **Young Professionals Network** to continue building your professional network.

Understand Your Career

- Network relentlessly! Attend networking events to get connected to employers looking to hire soon-to-be grads. Check **DragonCentral** for more information.
- **Schedule appointments with a Career Coach** to go over your professional documents and to prepare for upcoming interviews. And remember, once a dragon, always a dragon. You have access to these services for life.

What skills will you need?

To be successful in the world of Biochemistry & Biotechnology, you will need the following skills: critical thinking, communication, organization, observational, problem-solving.

Thankfully, through coursework, on-campus involvement, part-time employment, and internships, you will be well-prepared for life after graduation.