**Tech Tools**
We have nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometers, mass spectrometers, thermogravimetric analyzers, and you can use them!

**Location Advantage**
Both biology and chemistry departments have strong ties to Kennedy Space Center and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, which means more opportunities for students.

**Living Laboratories**
Nearby natural resources such as the estuarine habitats of the Indian River Lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean marine ecosystem are ideal for biological research.

The chemistry of life, biochemistry is an interdisciplinary science that seeks to unravel and understand the complex chemical reactions that occur within living organisms. In addition to the study of chemistry—organic, inorganic, physical, analytical—biochemistry students build a strong foundation in mathematics and may take courses in genetics, molecular biology, genetic engineering and cell biology.

**Why Biochemistry at Florida Tech?**
Perhaps the greatest benefit of studying biochemistry at Florida Tech is being part of not one but two outstanding departments, both of which are committed to a high level of faculty-student interaction and collaboration. As an interdisciplinary major program, biochemistry connects you with accomplished professors doing leading research in both biology and chemistry. It puts you in specialized high-tech laboratories where revolutionary research in both biology and chemistry happens every day. Another reason to choose biochemistry at Florida Tech: the university’s Space Coast location, which gives you access to a wide variety of natural resources and sci-tech companies.

**Your First-Year Experience**
New biochemistry students can look forward to immediate immersion in “real science,” not just text learning. By getting to know their professors and each other through small classes and department gatherings, students usually join a research group early in their college career. What this means is that first-year biochemistry students get to do hands-on, high-caliber research in exciting areas right from the start. Other freshman experiences you can look forward to as a biochemistry major include compelling lectures by world-renowned instructors and courses that challenge you make connections between biology and chemistry—strong preparation for sophomore year.

**QUICK FACTS**
- The biochemistry program is jointly administered by the departments of biology and chemistry, which ensures that students receive high-quality training in both.
- All lecture classes are taught by Ph.D. faculty, not graduate students.
- Students have the opportunity to get involved with Tri Beta, the biological sciences honor society, and the American Chemical Society Student Affiliates.
Biochemistry

Biochemistry encompasses the chemical, molecular and cellular systems and processes that sustain life. It has application in specialized fields such as genetics, immunology and medicine.

What to Expect

Biochemistry students may expect small classes and to learn from professors who enjoy working closely with students. The chemistry department is a small but highly active group, where there is frequent faculty-student interaction. All students participate in research in a faculty member’s lab using high-tech, state-of-the-art instruments. As a result, it is typical for biochemistry students to publish papers in a scientific journal by the time they graduate.

Facilities & Labs

Biochemistry students split their time between the Olin Physical Science Center, which contains 21 research labs and an NMR facility, and the F.W. Olin Life Sciences Building, which contains 12 research labs and a microscopy facility.

Faculty Research Areas

The biology and chemistry departments include faculty members whose research spans their respective fields. Current areas of interest include:

- novel approaches to degenerative diseases (i.e., Alzheimer’s)
- DNA analysis and chromosome replication
- chemical counter-measures for biological threat agents
- plant molecular biology
- biotechnology
- chemical toxicology

Careers

Biochemistry graduates are well prepared for entry-level positions in a variety of industries. Alumni have gone on to careers at:

- Bristol Meyers Squibb
- Florida Solar Energy Center
- Intel
- Merck and Co.
- National Institutes of Health
- Pfizer Pharmaceuticals
- Proctor and Gamble
- Sherwin Williams
- Shell Oil

Graduate Studies

Many biochemistry graduates go on to professional or graduate schools. Alumni have studied at universities such as:

- Dartmouth College
- Duke University
- Princeton University
- Columbia University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Pennsylvania State University
- University of Florida

Undergraduate Research

Students can start doing research their freshman year, working closely with faculty mentors on projects focused on Alzheimer’s disease, toxicology, polymer chemistry and fire safety.

Professional Experience

All undergraduate biochemistry students present papers at academic meetings and conferences—the perfect introduction to the world of professional biochemistry.

Best of Both Worlds

Biochemistry at Florida Tech means you work in biology and chemistry laboratories, are mentored by biology and chemistry professors, and get hands-on training in biology and chemistry. Best of all, you’re prepared for graduate school or employment in the fields of both biology and chemistry!

Department Contacts

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