



## Biochemistry Major FAQs

### 1. What can I do with a biochemistry major?

Biochemistry is an excellent major if you are fascinated by both biology and chemistry and would like to better understand how living things function. Biochemistry majors are well prepared for careers in the health professions and pharmacy, and also for graduate studies in biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology. The major is excellent preparation for research professions in general which includes academic institutions, biotechnology industries, or government labs. Although many of our majors pursue additional education, a bachelor's degree in biochemistry is adequate for entry level positions in most research laboratories.

### 2. What should I take my first semester to be on track for the biochemistry major?

The biochemistry major requires several chemistry courses that need to be taken in sequence, so we recommend that students take chemistry 111 or 115 during their first semester at St. Thomas. Many students also take Calculus (MATH113) and biology (BIOL207) their first semester as well. We recommend students take all three courses, but if that sounds too challenging then taking chemistry and math is a good idea.

### 3. Can I study abroad if I am a biochemistry major?

Yes! Studying abroad is a great idea for all majors. You need to plan--have a rough four-year plan so you know when you are going to take your chemistry courses and the allied requirements. That way you can work out the best time to go abroad. One opportunity to consider is taking Organic Chemistry 1, CHEM 201, in Rome, Italy as part of the Empower program. If you are interested in study abroad, make an appointment with the UST Study Abroad office to discuss options.

### 4. How do I get involved with research?

Research experiences abound in both the chemistry and biology departments! Most of our faculty work with students throughout the year on cutting edge research that leads to presentations at regional or national meetings or publications in peer-reviewed research journals. In chemistry there is a formal application procedure for summer positions, while in biology the process is more informal and requires contacting faculty members. For chemistry opportunities, applications are available on the [Chemistry Department](#) website at the beginning of the spring semester. Students are encouraged to contact faculty individually at any time of the year and can begin working any time. In most cases students can begin working as freshmen. Having the initiative to perform research is frequently the most important factor in getting started.

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