BCEM 530 – Honours Research Project in Biochemistry

BCEM 530 is required two-term course that students in Biological Sciences must as part of their requirements to fulfil an Honours degree in Biochemistry.

BCEM 530 will be conducted within the jurisdiction of the Program of Biochemistry and all projects must be done under the supervision or co-supervision of a regular or adjunct faculty member of the Biochemistry Program. BCEM 530 is required of, and open only to, Honours students in Biochemistry.

To be eligible to register in a BCEM 530 course, students must be enrolled in an Honours Biochemistry program, must have completed 72 units, and have a GPA of 2.75 or higher (over the most recent 30 units).

If the Supervisor is not a member of Biological Sciences, a Co-Supervisor by a faculty member in Biochemistry is required. In this case, both will have to approve the webform submission before you can be enrolled into the course.

Both the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor must be kept apprised of the project during the term and must be involved in the evaluation of the project and determination of the final grade.

Projects undertaken outside the BCEM program must have a component that aligns with the BCEM program (e.g., involve biochemical and molecular methods).

Getting a Supervisor
It is the responsibility of the student to decide on a general topic of interest for this course and to approach a suitable faculty member regarding supervision. This must be done in advance of initiating enrolment into the course.

Have a project idea but unsure who to approach as a possible Supervisor?
Students who have a project in mind but are unsure which faculty members would be potential supervisors should view the research themes carried out by faculty members in Biological Sciences (https://science.ucalgary.ca/biological-sciences/research/research-areas).

NOTE: The Course Coordinator will approve the final student/faculty member match up and the research project and announce decisions to the faculty and students.

GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO THE CONDUCT IN BCEM 530

Time commitment
Estimated time commitment is a minimum of 8-10 hours per week (on the project as a whole, which can include lab work, reading, writing, etc.), plus the time required to meet with the Supervisor(s) periodically to discuss progress.

Evaluation criteria
Evaluation criteria include the preparation of a research proposal, a progress report, research performance, a final report, and an oral presentation that is usually given the last or second-last week of classes. Components have pre-assigned weighting. The final grade will be assigned by the Course Coordinator.

Other specific notes:
1. A final written report submitted by the student to the Course Coordinator on the last day of lectures (as indicated in the Calendar). This will be graded by two faculty members, other than the Supervisor(s).

2. The student will submit a five-page project report halfway through the course.

3. The Supervisor(s) will submit, to the Course Coordinator, a half-page mid-session evaluation and a final written assessment by the end of term. The student should submit a five-page research proposal and progress report halfway through the course.

4. There will be an Undergraduate Research Symposium during the last or second-last week of classes. An advance notice of the time and location of the seminar, indicating the names of students, their time of presentation and the title of their seminar, will be prepared by the Course Coordinator. At the seminar, students will be introduced and the seminar title announced. Each
student will be allotted a 15-minute presentation time plus a 5-minute question period, which will be strictly enforced. Supervisors are expected to attend these seminars and participate in grading the students.

GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO REGISTRATION IN BCEM 530

GPA requirement
To be eligible to register in BCEM 530, students must have completed 72 units, and have a GPA of 2.75 or higher (over the most recent 30 units).

Meeting with potential Supervisor (and Co-Supervisor if applicable):

1. Provide a current unofficial copy of your transcript.
2. Agreed-upon value and due date for all course components must be determined with your Supervisor(s).
3. Students must be aware that there is an Independent Project Agreement & Checklist form to be completed and signed by the student and Supervisor(s). The last page of the form (Checklist) must be completed and signed by the student and submitted with the final report for the project. The form is available at: https://science.ucalgary.ca/biological-sciences/current-students/undergraduate/procedures-policies-and-forms
4. Be sure to ask about and/or discuss with potential Supervisor(s):
   Type/topic of research, expectations of the student and of the Supervisor(s), time requirements (e.g., 8-10 hours per week in total on the independent project), course components that will be required and graded, deadlines for submission of course components

Once the prospective Supervisor has indicated their willingness to supervise you on your project

Complete the webform (https://science.ucalgary.ca/usc-independent-research-course-application) NO LATER than 10 working days before the add/swap deadline in the term (https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html).

- If approval is denied at this point, you will be notified by e-mail.
- If approval is granted, staff in the USC will enrol you into the course and you will be notified by email.

BCEM 530 – Honours Research Project in Biochemistry and it will count towards a major in Biochemistry.

The following component values will be used for grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation criteria/course component</th>
<th>Due date (if applicable)**</th>
<th>Value in % (Total = 100%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor’s assessment of term work</td>
<td>End of term</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress Report</td>
<td>Halfway through course</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Report</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>Last or second-last week of classes</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**See the Biochemistry information page for due dates and times

Letter Grade Conversion
A+ ≥ 92, A ≥ 85, A- ≥ 80, B+ ≥ 77, B ≥ 73, B- ≥ 70, C+ ≥ 67, C ≥ 64, C- ≥ 60, D+ ≥ 55, D ≥ 50, F < 50