

CHEMICAL BIOLOGY, M.A.

A master's degree in chemical biology from Saint Louis University provides advanced instruction and training in synthetic organic chemistry, biology and pharmacology.

SLU's M.A. in chemical biology provides excellent preparation for transitioning to or enhancing a professional career in the life sciences industry. Employment opportunities include jobs in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and materials industries. The core of this degree includes organic and medicinal chemistry, molecular biology, and pharmacology, and it can be tailored to match the student's particular interests in chemical biology.

Program Highlights

Saint Louis University's chemical biology, M.A. program offers students:

- Coursework taught by faculty from the departments of chemistry (<https://www.slu.edu/science-and-engineering/academics/chemistry/>) and biology (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/biology/>) and the School of Medicine's Department of Pharmacology and Physiology (<https://www.slu.edu/medicine/medical-education/graduate-programs/biomedical-sciences/pharmacology-physiology/>)
- Small class sizes
- Can be completed in a part-time manner as many courses are offered in the evenings

Curriculum Overview

The Master of Arts in Chemical Biology offers specialization in medicinal chemistry, molecular biology and pharmacology, with cross-disciplinary study strongly encouraged.

The requirements for the non-thesis M.A. degree include:

- A minimum of 30 credits of post-baccalaureate coursework
- A private oral examination

Required coursework includes medicinal chemistry, molecular biology, and pharmacology, which are taught by faculty from the corresponding departments. Electives are chosen to complement the student's interests.

Many graduate courses in chemistry are scheduled in the evening, allowing students to complete the degree as part-time students. This flexibility allows students to tailor a program of study to suit their needs.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Graduate students are active in the research areas of medicinal chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology, cell biology and pharmacology.

Careers

Chemical biology graduates work in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, patent law, biomedical engineering and academic research.

Admission Requirements

Applicants should possess sufficient GPA and TOEFL (if applicable) scores and a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, usually in chemistry, biochemistry or biology, although other science majors will be considered.

Admission normally requires undergraduate coursework including (minimum credits in parentheses):

- Calculus (4)
- Organic chemistry with labs (8)
- Physics with labs (8)
- Physical chemistry (3)
- Biochemistry (3)
- Biology (6)

Students who do not meet these criteria may complete these prerequisites as part of their graduate program, though not for graduate credit.

Application Requirements

- Application form
- Official transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation
- Résumé
- Goal statement
- Interview (desired)

Requirements for International Students

All Saint Louis University admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students. International students applying to SLU must also meet the following additional requirements:

- Demonstrate English language proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- Academic records must include an English translation. Unofficial copies may be accepted in some cases for initial admission review, however official copies must be received prior to enrollment. Course-by-course transcript evaluations are accepted.

Students must submit financial documents to be issued an I-20 for their F-1 visa application. Proof of financial support must include:

- A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the student's time at Saint Louis University
- A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of the student's study at the University

Application Deadlines

Students who want to be considered for the summer and fall semesters must submit their application by Jan. 15. Students who wish to be considered for the spring semester should apply by Oct. 15.

Review Process

A three-person committee votes on whether to accept applicants.

Tuition

Tuition	Cost Per Credit
Graduate Tuition	\$1,450

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/>)

Scholarships, Assistantships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for a graduate assistantship, apply by the program admission deadlines listed. Fellowships and assistantships provide a stipend and may include health insurance and a tuition scholarship for the duration of the award.

Explore Scholarships and Financial Aid Options (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/types-of-aid/>)

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to assess relevant literature in chemical biology.
2. Graduates will be able to apply chemistry principles to biology.
3. Graduates will be able to articulate arguments or explanations in both oral and written forms.
4. Graduates will be able to evidence scholarly and professional integrity in chemical biology.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
CHEM 5630	Introduction to Chemical Biology and Biotechnology	3
CHEB 5970	Research Topics	3
CHEB 5980	Graduate Independent Study in Chemical Biology	3
CHEM 5470	Medicinal Chemistry	3
PPY 5410	Molecular Pharmacology ‡	3
or PPY 5110 & PPY 5120	Introduction to Pharmacology and Systems Physiology and Pharmacology I	
Elective Courses †		15
<i>Select 15 credits in 5000 level courses in Chemistry, Biology, or Pharmacology</i>		
Total Credits		30

‡ PPY 5110 Introduction to Pharmacology (1 cr) and PPY 5120 Systems Physiology and Pharmacology I (2 cr) may be taken in place of PPY 5410 Molecular Pharmacology (3 cr).

† Selected from 5000 level courses in consultation with student's research mentor. Electives should be selected from chemistry, biology, pharmacology, or biochemistry departments. Electives can also be fulfilled by taking 5000-level courses in other disciplines with approval by a program coordinator and the student's committee.

Non-Course Requirements

A private oral examination.

Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student's academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an "!" are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Students in the coursework M.A. program will commonly take one to two courses a semester, which means the timeline will vary for each student.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
CHEM 5630	Introduction to Chemical Biology and Biotechnology (! Evening course offered in the Fall of even numbered years)	3
Elective ²		3
Credits		6
Spring		
CHEM 5470	Medicinal Chemistry (! Evening course offered every Spring)	3
PPY 5410	Molecular Pharmacology (! Offered every Spring) ¹	3
Credits		6
Summer		
CHEB 5970	Research Topics	3
Credits		3
Year Two		
Fall		
! Elective ²		3
! Elective ²		3
Credits		6
Spring		
! Electives ²		6
Credits		6
Summer		
CHEB 5980	Graduate Independent Study in Chemical Biology	3
Oral Examination		
Credits		3
Total Credits		30

Students in the coursework MA program will commonly take one to two courses a semester, which means the timeline will vary for each student.

¹ The PPY 5110 and PPY 5120 sequence may be taken in place of PPY 5410. PPY 511- and 5120 are fall semester courses.

² **Electives (must take at least four courses):** Electives can be fulfilled by taking 5000-level courses in Chemistry, Pharmacology or Biology. Electives in other disciplines such as math, computer science, and engineering may be taken with approval by a program coordinator and the student's committee.

Contact Us

For more information about any School of Science and Engineering graduate program, email ssegrad-admissions@slu.edu.

For additional information about our program, please contact:

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