



DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

BCHM 60400 Syllabus Spring Semester, 2026 CRN 19298

COREQUISITES

BCHM 60100 and BCHM 60500 or consent of instructor

COURSE OBJECTIVES

BCHM 60400 encompasses outcomes from research rotations, presentations and workshops that enhance the scientific coursework. Students will learn how to devise hypotheses, design experiments that test their hypotheses, record their data in laboratory notebooks, critically analyze the results of their analyses, and present their findings to others. Students enrolled in this course will demonstrate deep understanding of their research projects and scientific communication skills through oral presentations. Students enrolled in this course will be exposed to a wide variety of research areas through participation in laboratory group meetings, peer presentations, and the Biochemistry seminar series.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

BCHM 60400 students will understand the scientific method. They will be able to develop hypotheses, design experiments, and critically analyze results to create new knowledge.

BCHM 60400 students will communicate scientific knowledge, experiments and conclusions effectively as speakers.

BCHM 60400 students will use scientific instrumentation to evaluate the activity or function of biological macromolecules.

BCHM 60400 students will demonstrate knowledge of analytical and preparative methods that can be applied to biochemistry.

BCHM 60400 students will demonstrate knowledge of accepted safe laboratory practices.

BCHM 60400 students will demonstrate laboratory experience working with a diverse group of individuals as part of a research team.

BCHM 60400 students will describe research projects in an oral presentation that can be readily understood by a general scientific audience.

BCHM 60400 students will appreciate the ethical issues facing professionals in the life sciences.

TEXTBOOK

BCHM 60400 students are expected to read and understand the background information of their research rotation project via textbooks or primary literature.

BRIGHTSPACE

The syllabus and graduate rotation rubric be available via the Purdue University Brightspace site at: <https://purdue.brightspace.com>

LABORATORY TIME AND PLACE

To be arranged with rotation supervisors.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **BCHM 60400 students are expected to spend a minimum of 20 hours per week in the laboratories of their assigned rotation supervisors.**
 - Rotation supervisors will provide feedback to the first-year chair through the rotation evaluations.
 - Specific hours in the lab should be worked out between the rotation supervisors, lab members and the student.
 - Advance notice of change of schedule should be given to the rotation supervisor and where applicable, the graduate student, post-doctoral research associate, technician, or research associate who directly supervises the student as a matter of common courtesy.
 - BCHM 60400 students are expected to participate in the laboratory meetings of their rotation supervisors.
- **BCHM 60400 students will present a 10-minute oral presentation of their rotation project at the conclusion of each rotation.**
 - BCHM 60400 students should demonstrate a clear understanding of their project and the importance of the described research.
 - BCHM 60400 students should be able to answer audience questions on their presentations.
 - Oral presentations will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members in consultation with the first-year graduate chair.
- **BCHM 60400 students are expected to attend Friday student/postdoc talks.**
- **BCHM 60400 students are expected to attend Tuesday Biochemistry seminars.**

IDENTIFICATION OF SUPERVISING FACULTY MEMBERS

Students will identify rotation supervisors in consultation with the first-year graduate chair. BCHM 60400 should interview faculty members in the first week of the semester to identify laboratories where they might pursue MS or PhD research. Students should provide the first-year chair with the names of five potential rotation supervisors, preferably rank-ordered. The first-year chair will assign students to rotation supervisors in consultation with the faculty.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you will require special accommodations in BCHM 60400 because of diagnosed disabilities, you are expected to notify the course instructor prior to initiating project so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

ASSESSMENT

The assigned grade for BCHM 60400 will reflect the priorities and expectations of the supervising faculty members. Expectations are based on the graduate rotation rubric. The first-year chair will assign grades from the rubric of rotation 3 from their assigned rotation lab.

General expectation of grades:

A: Student assumes responsibility for directing project. Demonstrates clear understanding of hypothesis tested and of experimental approaches used to test hypothesis. Student keeps an accurate record of experiments neatly written in a laboratory notebook. Student has no issues with attendance, rotation presentations or written assignments.

B: Student has modest understanding of hypothesis tested and of experimental approaches used to test hypothesis. Student keeps an accurate record of experiments neatly written in a laboratory notebook. Student has no issues with attendance, rotation presentations or written assignments.

C: Student has modest understanding of hypothesis tested and of experimental approaches used to test hypothesis. Student is not reliable regarding hours in lab or is not reliable in maintaining an accurate lab notebook or has failed to perform acceptably on the written assignments and rotation presentations.

D: Student has poor understanding of research project. Student is not reliable regarding hours in lab or is not reliable in maintaining an accurate lab notebook or has failed to perform acceptably on the written assignments and oral presentations.

F: Student fails to grasp basic concepts driving research project. Student has substantial issues regarding hours in lab or in maintaining an accurate lab notebook or has failed to perform acceptably on the written assignment.

The final date to withdraw from the course with a W for Spring 2026 is April 16. Each student will have up-to-date graded feedback before April 16 and again before April 27.

SAFETY TRAINING

All student must understand and follow the standard operating procedure (SOP) of the lab and wear PPE according to the lab SOP.

If students have not already done so, they must complete safety training before they can enroll in BCHM 60400. Review the University's Chemical Hygiene Plan manual and complete the Online Personal Protective Equipment Training:

<https://www.purdue.edu/rem/home/booklets/chp2014.pdf> -- web version of Chemical Hygiene Plan manual

- Print out the form under Appendix A and sign after reading the manual.

<http://www.chem.purdue.edu/chemsafety/Training/PPETrain/ppetonline.htm> -- Online Personal Protective Equipment Training

Students are required to go to this website and read items 2, 3, 5, 8, 10 & 13. The student must click the terms (e.g. "chem/bio gloves") and read the training (and repeat for each item listed above). Once the student has read the item, s/he should check the box. After they have read each one, they must fill out the bottom section of the form, identifying the course instructor as supervisor with first and last name. They should then press "submit", and print the certification that shows up and sign it. This form must be provided to the course instructor who must sign it. The student must deliver the two completed certificates to the BCHM Main Office (120).

ATTENDANCE

This course follows the [University Academic Regulations regarding class attendance](#), which state that students are expected to be present for every meeting of the classes in which they are enrolled. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and lateness will be noted. When conflicts or absences can be anticipated, such as for many University-sponsored activities and religious observations, you should inform me of the situation as far in advance as possible. For unanticipated or emergency absences when advance notification is not possible, contact me as soon as possible by email or phone. For absences that do not fall under excused absence regulations (see below), this course follows the following procedures:

1. Do not come to class if you are feeling ill, but DO email me at xxx@purdue.edu, with the subject line: xxx [course code] absence. I do not need details about your symptoms. Just let me know you are feeling ill and cannot come to class. If it is an emergency situation, please follow the University regulations on emergent medical care (see below).
2. Unless it falls under the University excused absence regulations (see below), any work due should be submitted on time via our course Brightspace.
3. If that day's class involves assessed work such as a test or presentation, you and I will plan if and how you can make up the work, following the assignment guidelines. This plan must be done before the next class period, so again, email me immediately when you know that you will miss class.
4. The most important consideration in any absence is how it will affect your achievement of the assignment objectives and the course learning outcomes.

For cases that fall under **excused absence regulations**, you or your representative should contact or go to the [Office of the Dean of Students \(ODOS\) website](#) to complete appropriate forms for instructor notification. Under academic regulations, excused absences may be granted by ODOS for cases of grief/bereavement, military service, jury duty, parenting leave, or emergent medical care. The processes are detailed, so plan ahead.

PROTECT PURDUE PLAN

Any student who has substantial reason to believe that another person is threatening the safety of others by not complying with Protect Purdue protocols is encouraged to report the behavior to and discuss the next steps with their instructor. Students also have the option of reporting the behavior to the [Office of the Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). See also [Purdue University Bill of Student Rights](#) and the Violent Behavior Policy under University Resources in Brightspace.

MENTAL HEALTH

If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try [WellTrack](#). Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.

If you need support and information about options and resources, please contact or see the [Office of the Dean of Students](#). Call 765-494-1747. Hours of operation are M-F, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

If you find yourself struggling to find a healthy balance between academics, social life, stress, etc., sign up for free one-on-one virtual or in-person sessions with a [Purdue Wellness Coach at RecWell](#). Sign up is free and can be done on BoilerConnect. Students in Indianapolis will find support services curated on the [Vice Provost for Student Life website](#).

If you're struggling and need mental health services: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 765-494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS offices in [West Lafayette](#) or [Indianapolis](#).

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMODATIONS

Purdue University strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: drc@purdue.edu or by phone: 765-494-1247.

Every member of our course should be able to access, use, and learn from the materials we share. This includes all course-related digital content that you and I share in the course. This approach helps promote equal access for everyone at Purdue and is mandated federally by [Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#). We will work together to provide this access within our Brightspace course.

- A good starting place for you is to bookmark and review the [Innovative Learning Accessibility Checklist](#) for guidance on creating accessible materials.
- When selecting materials to share on our Brightspace from Purdue Libraries catalog or databases, best practices include choosing items that:
 - Can be downloaded in full
 - Are available in EPUB or HTML formats
 - Include alternative text for written materials or captions for audio/visual content

If the Disability Resource Center (DRC) has determined reasonable accommodations that you would like to utilize in my class, you must release your Course Accommodation Letter to me. Instructions on sharing your Course Accommodation Letter can be found by visiting: [How To Use Your Course Accommodation Letter](#). Additionally, you are strongly encouraged to contact me as soon as possible to discuss implementation of your accommodation.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated in any course offered by the Department of Biochemistry. Information on Purdue's policies with regard to academic misconduct can be found at http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/student_conduct/regulations.html

Any incidence of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. Academic misconduct may result in disciplinary sanctions including expulsion, suspension, probated suspension, disciplinary probation, and/or educational sanctions. In addition, such misconduct will result in punitive grading such as:

- receiving a lower or failing grade on the assignment, or
- assessing a lower or failing grade for the course

Punitive grading decisions will be made after consultation with the Office of the Dean of Students. Please note reported incidences of academic misconduct go on record for reference by other instructors. Further, a record of academic misconduct is likely to influence how current/future situations are handled.

To provide you with an unambiguous definition of academic misconduct, the following text has been excerpted from "Academic Integrity: A Guide for Students", written by Stephen Akers, Ph.D., Executive Associate Dean of Students (1995, Revised 1999, 2003), and published by the Office of the Dean of Students in cooperation with Purdue Student Government, Schleman Hall of Student Services, Room 207, 475 Stadium Mall Drive West Lafayette, IN 47907-2050.

"Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, *Student Regulations*] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]

More specifically, the following are a few examples of academic dishonesty which have been discovered at Purdue University.

- substituting on an exam for another student
- substituting in a course for another student
- paying someone else to write a paper and submitting it as one's own work
- giving or receiving answers by use of signals during an exam
- copying with or without the other person's knowledge during an exam
- doing class assignments for someone else
- plagiarizing published material, class assignments, or lab reports
- turning in a paper that has been purchased from a commercial research firm or obtained from the internet
- padding items of a bibliography
- obtaining an unauthorized copy of a test in advance of its scheduled administration
- using unauthorized notes during an exam
- collaborating with other students on assignments when it is not allowed
- obtaining a test from the exam site, completing and submitting it later
- altering answers on a scored test and submitting it for a regrade
- accessing and altering grade records
- stealing class assignments from other students and submitting them as one's own
- fabricating data
- destroying or stealing the work of other students

Plagiarism is a special kind of academic dishonesty in which one person steals another person's ideas or words and falsely presents them as the plagiarist's own product. This is most likely to occur in the following ways:

- using the exact language of someone else without the use of quotation marks and without giving proper credit to the author
- presenting the sequence of ideas or arranging the material of someone else even though such is expressed in one's own words, without giving appropriate acknowledgment
- submitting a document written by someone else but representing it as one's own"

USES OF AI IN THE COURSE

- Unless otherwise directed, students are not permitted to use artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, to complete assignments. Students who use AI in any of their assignments in this course will be deemed to be in violation of the academic integrity expectations for this course. Violations can include a failing grade on the assignment in question or a failing grade for the course. All suspected incidents of academic dishonesty will also be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review of the student's status with the University as

described

below. **There will be times in the course where we will explore AI tools and how they can be used effectively and appropriately with scientific integrity.** Students are urged to approach AI as a supplementary tool, not a replacement for their unique intellectual capacities and insights.

- **Consequences for Misuse:** Misuse of AI tools in coursework, which includes but is not limited to producing unoriginal work, uncited use of AI-generated content, or unauthorized assistance on assessments, will be considered a breach of academic integrity. Consequences will follow the Purdue's policies on academic dishonesty as detailed above, which may include grade penalties, course failure, or more severe disciplinary actions.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breaches of this value by either emailing integrity@purdue.edu or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information is submitted the greater the opportunity for the university to investigate the concern. More details are available on our course Brightspace under University Policies and Statements.

NOTICE OF COPYRIGHT PROTECTION OF COURSE MATERIALS

See the University Policies and Statements section of Brightspace for guidance on Use of Copyrighted Materials. Effective learning environments provide opportunities for students to reflect, explore new ideas, post opinions openly, and have the freedom to change those opinions over time. Students and instructors are the authors of the works they create in the learning environment. As authors, they own the copyright in their works subject only to the university's right to use those works for educational purposes. Students may not copy, reproduce, or post to any other outlet (e.g., YouTube, Facebook, or other open media sources or websites) any work in which they are not the sole or joint author or have not obtained the permission of the author(s).

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors or TAs via email or phone. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Purdue University's non-discrimination policy will be upheld in this classroom. Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Purdue University views, evaluates, and treats all persons in any University related activity or circumstance in which they may be involved, solely as individuals on the basis of their own personal abilities, qualifications, and other relevant characteristics.

In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute. Please take care to respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by students and staff involved in this course. We support Purdue's commitment to diversity, and welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, disability, sex, education, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experience, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences

For more information, see http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.html.

MENTAL HEALTH

Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (765) 494-6995 or <http://www.purdue.edu/caps/> after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office on the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

ANTI-HARRASSMENT POLICY

Purdue University is committed to maintaining an environment that recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding and mutual respect; and encourages its members to strive to reach their potential. The most effective way to work toward preventing Harassment is through education that emphasizes respect for every individual.

Harassment in the workplace or the educational environment is unacceptable conduct and will not be tolerated. Purdue University is committed to maintaining an educational and work climate for faculty, staff and students that is positive and free from all forms of Harassment. This policy addresses Harassment in all forms, including Harassment toward individuals with legally protected status for reasons of race, gender, religion, color, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information or disability and Harassment toward individuals for other reasons such as sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status or parental status. Full details of Purdue's anti-harassment policy can be found here: <http://www.purdue.edu/policies/ethics/iiic1.html>

The Vice President for Ethics & Compliance website includes a list of [Student Policies](#). Among those is the [Violent Behavior policy](#), which explains that Purdue is committed to providing a safe and secure campus environment for members of the university community. Purdue strives to create an educational environment for students and a work environment for employees that promote educational and career goals. Violent behavior impedes such goals. Therefore, violent behavior is prohibited in or on any University facility or while participating in any university activity.

BASIC NEEDS SECURITY

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. There is no appointment needed and Student Support Services is available to serve students 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

DISCLAIMER

This syllabus is subject to change and vary from lab to lab.