

Microbiology (BS): Microbial Biotechnology Concentration

Microbiology is concerned with the growth and development, physiology, classification, ecology, genetics, and other aspects of the life process of an array of microscopic, generally single-celled, organisms and viruses. These organisms frequently serve as model systems for elucidation of fundamental processes that are common to all living cells. Most of the major discoveries that have produced spectacular advances in biology and genomic science during the past decade have resulted from studies of microbial systems. Future developments in biotechnology, production of food and fuel, and human and animal health will rely heavily on understanding microbial processes.

There are 4 avenues to earning a B.S. in Microbiology. Students can opt for a general curriculum (MBIO) or can choose to focus in a particular area by selecting one of three areas of concentration: Microbial Biotechnology (MBIO-MT) or Microbial Research (MBIO-MR) or Microbial Health Sciences (MBIO-HS). These concentrations mirror the three most common career paths of Microbiology majors: work in research laboratories and production facilities, further study in graduate school (at the Masters or Doctoral level), and further study in professional schools such as medical and dental schools.

Contact Person

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Plan Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Orientation		
LSC 103	Exploring Opportunities in the Life Sciences	1
or ENV 100	Student Success in Environmental First Year	
Scientific Communication		
ENG 333	Communication for Science and Research ¹	3
Mathematical Sciences		
MA 131	Calculus for Life and Management Sciences A ¹	3
or MA 141	Calculus I	
ST 311	Introduction to Statistics ¹	3
or ST 371	Introduction to Probability and Distribution Theory	
Natural and Physical Sciences		
CH 101	Chemistry - A Molecular Science	4
& CH 102	and General Chemistry Laboratory ²	
CH 201	Chemistry - A Quantitative Science	4
& CH 202	and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory ²	
CH 221	Organic Chemistry I	4
& CH 222	and Organic Chemistry I Lab ²	
CH 223	Organic Chemistry II	4
& CH 224	and Organic Chemistry II Lab ²	

BIO 181	Introductory Biology: Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity ¹	4
BIO 183	Introductory Biology: Cellular and Molecular Biology ¹	4
Select one of the following: ²		4
PY 201	University Physics I	
PY 205	Physics for Engineers and Scientists I	
& PY 206	and Physics for Engineers and Scientists I Laboratory	
PY 211	College Physics I	
Select one of the following: ²		4
PY 202	University Physics II	
PY 208	Physics for Engineers and Scientists II	
& PY 209	and Physics for Engineers and Scientists II Laboratory	
PY 212	College Physics II	

Major Requirements

LSC 101	Critical and Creative Thinking in the Life Sciences ¹	2
or ENV 101	Exploring the Environment	
MB 251	General Microbiology ¹	3
MB 254	Inquiry-Guided Microbiology Lab ¹	1
MB 311	Medical Microbiology ¹	3
MB 312	Medical Microbiology Laboratory ¹	1
MB 414	Microbial Metabolic Regulation ¹	3
MB 451	Microbial Diversity ¹	3
MB 452	Microbial Diversity Lab ¹	2
MB 455	Microbial Biotechnology ¹	3
MB 480	Current Issues in Microbiology ¹	1
GN 311	Principles of Genetics ¹	4
BCH 451	Principles of Biochemistry ¹	4
Gene Expression ¹		3
BCH 453	Biochemistry of Gene Expression	
GN 421/521	Molecular Genetics	
Cell/Physiology ¹		3
BIO 240	Principles of Human Anatomy & Physiology (A): Nervous, Skeletal, Muscular, & Digestive Systems	
BIO 245	Principles of Human Anatomy & Physiology (B): Endocrine, Cardiovascular, Respiratory & Renal Systems	
BIO 414	Cell Biology	
BIO 416	Cancer Cell Biology	
PB 421	Plant Physiology	
Microbial Biotech Electives (p. 2) ¹		12
Laboratory Elective (p. 2) ¹		3
GEP Courses		
ENG 101	Academic Writing and Research ¹	4
GEP Humanities (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-humanities/)		6
GEP Social Sciences (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-social-sciences/)		6
GEP Health and Exercise Studies (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-health-exercise-studies/)		2

GEP Elective (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)	3
GEP Interdisciplinary Perspectives (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-interdisciplinary-perspectives/)	3
GEP Global Knowledge (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-global-knowledge/) (verify requirement)	
GEP Foundations of American Democracy (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-fad/) (verify requirement)	
World Language Proficiency (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/world-language-proficiency/) (verify requirement)	
Free Electives	
Free Electives (12 Hr S/U Lmt)	3
Total Hours	120

¹ A grade of C- or higher is required.

² At most one passing grade below C- is permitted in these natural sciences courses

Microbial Biotech Electives

Code	Title	Hours
BAE 425	Industrial Microbiology and Bioprocessing	3
BBS/FS 426	Upstream Biomanufacturing Laboratory	2
BEC/CHE 463	Fermentation of Recombinant Microorganisms	2
BEC 480	cGMP Fermentation Operations	2
BEC 488	Animal Cell Culture Engineering	2
BIT 410	Manipulation of Recombinant DNA	4
MB/BIT 210	Phage Hunters	3
MB/BIT 211	Phage Genomics	2
MB 420/520	Fundamentals of Microbial Cell Biotransformations	2

Laboratory Elective

Code	Title	Hours
BBS 426	Upstream Biomanufacturing Laboratory	2
BCH 452	Introductory Biochemistry Laboratory	2
BEC 426	Upstream Biomanufacturing Laboratory	2
BEC 436	Introduction to Downstream Process Development	2
BEC 462	Fundamentals of Bio-Nanotechnology	3
BEC 463	Fermentation of Recombinant Microorganisms	2
BEC 480	cGMP Fermentation Operations	2
BEC 483		2
BEC 485	cGMP Downstream Operations	2
BEC 488	Animal Cell Culture Engineering	2
BEC 495	Special Topics in Biomanufacturing	1-4
BEC 497	Biomanufacturing Research Projects	1-3
BIT 410	Manipulation of Recombinant DNA	4
BIT 463	Fermentation of Recombinant Microorganisms	2
BIT 464	Protein Purification	2
BIT 465	Real-time PCR Techniques	2
BIT 466	Animal Cell Culture Techniques	2
BIT 467	PCR and DNA Fingerprinting	2

BIT 471	RNA Interference and Model Organisms	2
BIT 473	Protein Interactions	2
BIT 474	Plant Genetic Engineering	2
BIT 476	Applied Bioinformatics	2
BIT 477	Metagenomics	2
BIT 479	High-Throughput Discovery	2
BIT 480	Yeast Metabolic Engineering	2
BIT 481	Plant Tissue Culture and Transformation	2
BIT 492	External Learning Experience	1-6
BIT 493	Special Problems in Biotechnology	1-6
BIT 495	Special Topics in Biotechnology	1-3
BME 483	Tissue Engineering Technologies	2
CHE 462	Fundamentals of Bio-Nanotechnology	3
CHE 463	Fermentation of Recombinant Microorganisms	2
CHE 488	Animal Cell Culture Engineering	2
FS 426	Upstream Biomanufacturing Laboratory	2
BIO 418	Cell Biology Research Lab	2
GN 312	Elementary Genetics Laboratory	1
MB 360	Scientific Inquiry in Microbiology: At the Bench	3
MB 420	Fundamentals of Microbial Cell Biotransformations	2
PB 481	Plant Tissue Culture and Transformation	2
PO 466	Animal Cell Culture Techniques	2

Semester Sequence

This is a sample.

First Year

Fall Semester		Hours
BIO 181	Introductory Biology: Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity ¹	4
CH 101 & CH 102	Chemistry - A Molecular Science and General Chemistry Laboratory ²	4
LSC 101	Critical and Creative Thinking in the Life Sciences ¹	2
MA 131	Calculus for Life and Management Sciences A ¹	3
GEP Health and Exercise Studies (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-health-exercise-studies/)		1
LSC 103	Exploring Opportunities in the Life Sciences	1
Hours		15

Spring Semester

BIO 183	Introductory Biology: Cellular and Molecular Biology ¹	4
CH 221 & CH 222	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry I Lab ²	4
ENG 101	Academic Writing and Research	4
GEP Social Sciences (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-social-sciences/)		3
Hours		15

Second Year**Fall Semester**

CH 223 & CH 224	Organic Chemistry II and Organic Chemistry II Lab ²	4
PY 211	College Physics I ²	4
MB 251	General Microbiology ¹	3
MB 254	Inquiry-Guided Microbiology Lab ¹	1
GEP Social Sciences (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-social-sciences/)		3
Hours		15

Spring Semester

CH 201 & CH 202	Chemistry - A Quantitative Science and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory ²	4
PY 212	College Physics II ²	4
GEP Humanities (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-humanities/)		3
MB 311	Medical Microbiology ¹	3
MB 312	Medical Microbiology Laboratory ¹	1
Hours		15

Third Year**Fall Semester**

ENG 333	Communication for Science and Research	3
GN 311	Principles of Genetics ¹	4
ST 311	Introduction to Statistics ¹	3
GEP Health and Exercise Studies (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-health-exercise-studies/)		1
Microbial Biotechnology Elective (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/sciences/biological-sciences/microbiology-bs/#microbial-biotechnology-electives) ¹		3
Hours		14

Spring Semester

Cell/Physiology Elective ¹		3
BCH 451	Principles of Biochemistry ¹	4
Laboratory Elective (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/sciences/biological-sciences/microbiology-bs/#laboratory-elective) ¹		3
GEP Elective (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)		3
MB 455	Microbial Biotechnology ¹	3
Hours		16

Fourth Year**Fall Semester**

MB 414	Microbial Metabolic Regulation ¹	3
MB 480	Current Issues in Microbiology ¹	1
Microbial Biotechnology Elective (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/sciences/biological-sciences/microbiology-bs/#microbial-biotechnology-electives) ¹		3
MB 451	Microbial Diversity ¹	3
MB 452	Microbial Diversity Lab ¹	2
GEP Humanities (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-humanities/)		3
Hours		15

Spring Semester

Free Elective		3
Gene Expression Elective ¹		3
GEP Interdisciplinary Perspectives (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-interdisciplinary-perspectives/)		3
Microbial Biotechnology Elective (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/sciences/biological-sciences/microbiology-bs/#microbial-biotechnology-electives) ¹		3
Microbial Biotechnology Elective (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/sciences/biological-sciences/microbiology-bs/#microbial-biotechnology-electives) ¹		3
Hours		15
Total Hours		120

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Career Opportunities

Many students majoring in the Department of Biological Sciences take advantage of scholarship and honors programs available at NC State, including the University Honors Program and the University Scholars Program. In addition, we offer a discipline-based Undergraduate Honors Program in Biological Sciences (DBS Honors Program). The DBS Honors Program requires students to design a challenging program of advanced study, including eight credits of honors coursework in biology and at least two semesters of research or teaching scholarship.

Participants write an honors thesis and are required to present their scholarly work at a local, regional, or national meeting. Invitations to join the DBS Honors Program are sent in the first three weeks of the Fall and Spring semesters. Students in any major in the Department of Biological Sciences who have earned an overall GPA of 3.60 after completing 30-65 credit hours at NC State will receive an invitation to join the DBS Honors Program; transfer students in any of our majors who have earned an overall GPA of 3.60 in 15 credit hours at NC State also will receive an invitation.

Students who graduate from the Department of Biological Sciences are well prepared for employment in various government agencies and private industries. Graduates may continue their education with studies leading to advanced degrees in many areas of the biological sciences, including cell biology, ecology, microbiology, genetics, zoology, neurobiology, and biomedical disciplines. Many choose to seek advanced degrees in medicine, dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine, public health, and other health-related fields. Students who plan to seek certification for pre-college teaching may want to pursue a second major in the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Education.

Career Titles

- Biochemist
- Biologist
- Biology Professor
- Biomedical Engineer
- Biophysicist
- Dermatologist (MD)
- Epidemiologists

- Family Practitioner (MD)
- Food & Drug Inspector
- Food Technologist
- Forensic Science Technicians
- General Internists (MD)
- Geneticist
- Gynecologist (MD)
- Medical Technologist
- Microbiologist
- Obstetrician (MD)
- Pathologist (MD)
- Pediatrician (MD)
- Pharmacologist
- Sales Representative (Chemicals & Drugs)
- Surgeons (MD)
- Surgical Assistants
- Toxicologist
- Water Pollution Control Inspector

Learn More About Careers

NCcareers.org (<https://nccareers.org/>)

Explore North Carolina's central online resource for students, parents, educators, job seekers and career counselors looking for high quality job and career information.

Occupational Outlook Handbook (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>)

Browse the Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to view state and area employment and wage statistics. You can also identify and compare similar occupations based on your interests.

Career One Stop Videos (<https://www.careeronestop.org/>)

View videos that provide career details and information on wages, employment trends, skills needed, and more for any occupation. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Focus 2 Career Assessment (<https://careers.dasa.ncsu.edu/explore-careers/career-assessments/>) (NC State student email address required)

This career, major and education planning system is available to current NC State students to learn about how your values, interests, competencies, and personality fit into the NC State majors and your future career. An NC State email address is required to create an account. Make an appointment with your career counselor (<https://careers.dasa.ncsu.edu/about/hours-appointments/>) to discuss the results.

Focus 2 Apply Assessment (<https://www.focus2career.com/Portal/Register.cfm?SID=1929>) (Available to prospective students)

A career assessment tool designed to support prospective students in exploring and choosing the right major and career path based on your unique personality, interests, skills and values. Get started with Focus 2 Apply and see how it can guide your journey at NC State.