The Biomedical Engineering Undergraduate Major

The Biomedical Engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (http://www.abet.org).

Biomedical engineering is an interdisciplinary field of study that integrates knowledge of engineering principles with the biomedical sciences. It is a very diverse field with biomedical engineers working in areas ranging from medical imaging to regenerative medicine. Some major contributions of Biomedical Engineering include the left ventricular assist device (LVAD), artificial joints, hemodialysis, bioengineered skin, coronary stents, computed tomography (CT), and flexible endoscopes.

Students who choose biomedical engineering are interested in contributing to human health and quality of life, but do not routinely interact directly with patients, as do physicians. Due to the need to complete additional coursework beyond BME degree requirements, this major is not a primary route for pre-medical studies.

The mission of the BS degree program of the Department of Biomedical Engineering is to combine exceptional teaching with state-of-the-art research for the advancement of technologies and computational techniques that meet medical and societal challenges.

The educational objectives of our program are that a B.S. degree in Biomedical Engineering should prepare students to:

- Be successfully engaged in their chosen career through engineering practice, academic or clinical research, healthcare, education, service, or related activities, or through the pursuit of graduate or professional degrees; and
- Contribute effectively to society through responsible professional practice, fostering of cross-disciplinary collaboration, generation of innovative solutions to problems, and continuous pursuit of knowledge for personal and technological advancement.

The biomedical engineering curriculum is designed to provide a solid interdisciplinary foundation in life and physical sciences, mathematics, and engineering, while allowing for sufficient flexibility in the upper division requirements to encourage students to explore specializations within the field. Our instructional program is designed to impart knowledge of contemporary issues at the forefront of biomedical engineering research. Employment opportunities exist in industry, hospitals, academic research and teaching institutions, national laboratories, government regulatory agencies, consulting and finance. The major also provides excellent grounding in the skills necessary for graduate-level studies in engineering disciplines and biological sciences, as well as for professional studies in health (medicine, dentistry, optometry, prosthetics), business and law. Exclusive of General Education units, the minimum number of units required for the Biomedical Engineering degree is 158.

Areas of Specialization

As Biomedical engineering is a broad field, specializing in a subfield of engineering can provide more in-depth expertise in a focus area. Through the judicious selection of upper division engineering and science electives, students can create this depth in one of our suggested areas of specialization or in an area of the student’s choosing. One of the strengths of the UC Davis program is the flexibility to design one’s own emphasis of study. These specializations are neither required nor degree-notated.

Biomechanics

This is a broad subfield that includes orthopedic/rehabilitation engineering and the study of mechanical forces produced by biological systems. This subfield helps us understand the fluid dynamics of blood flow and the forces acting on tissue in the artery allowing us to design better cardiovascular interventional devices. This field involves a more intensive study of mechanics, dynamics and thermodynamics.

Cellular & Tissue

The cellular and tissue specialization applies biomedical engineering principles to control behavior at the gene, protein, cell, and tissue level. Engineers in this area work with cellular therapies, protein production, gene therapy, tissue engineering and regeneration, and biomaterials development. This subfield draws heavily from the chemical and biological sciences and can involve studying biomedical transport, natural or synthetic biomaterials, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.

Imaging

Visualizing anatomical structure, physiological processes, metabolic activity and molecular expression in living tissues is essential for the diagnosis of disease, development of new therapeutics, evaluation of the response to therapeutics, and guidance of interventional procedures. An imaging biomedical engineer can develop instruments for imaging, create algorithms for three-dimensional reconstruction of imaging data, and generate new contrast agents to enhance image quality. Our program has a particular strength in molecular imaging, which involves detecting molecular-scale events within living systems. Depending upon your area of interest, the imaging specialization can require further study in electronics, signal processing, chemistry or computer programming.

Medical Devices

Biomedical engineers can develop devices, instruments and implants ranging from the nano- to macro-scale that can be used in the diagnosis, treatment or prevention of disease. This involves combining technologies like pharmaceuticals, electronics and mechanical devices to develop combination medical treatments.

Systems & Synthetic Biology

In systems and synthetic biology, students apply engineering principles to better understand, design and build biological systems at the cellular level. They integrate cellular, biochemical, genetic, electromechanical and computational approaches in their work, which can be applied to health and other applications. Systems and synthetic biology specialists can build engineered or artificial cells for fighting cancer or antibiotic resistance, improve tissue engineering and drug production approaches and study how complex and dynamic molecular systems control cellular behavior.

Pre-Medical Student

As engineering is playing an increasing role in the practice of medicine, students can focus on the intersection of engineering and medicine for future careers as physician-scientists. Please note that to meet...
admission requirements for medical school, students must complete extra coursework in addition to the listed Department of Biomedical Engineering Curriculum Requirements.

The Graduate Program in Biomedical Engineering
Doctoral and master’s degrees in Biomedical Engineering are offered through the interdisciplinary Graduate Group in Biomedical Engineering; see Biomedical Engineering (https://bme.ucdavis.edu) & Biomedical Engineering Graduate Group. (https://bmegg.ucdavis.edu/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAT 021A</td>
<td>Calculus</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 021B</td>
<td>Calculus</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 021C</td>
<td>Calculus</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 021D</td>
<td>Vector Analysis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 022A</td>
<td>Linear Algebra</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MAT 027A</td>
<td>Linear Algebra with Applications to Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or BIS 027A</td>
<td>Linear Algebra with Applications to Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 022B</td>
<td>Differential Equations</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MAT 027B</td>
<td>Differential Equations with Applications to Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or BIS 027B</td>
<td>Differential Equations with Applications to Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mathematics

Physics

CHE 002A | General Chemistry                            | 15    |
& CHE 002B | and General Chemistry                        |       |
& CHE 002C | and General Chemistry                        |       |
CHE 008A | Organic Chemistry: Brief Course              | 2-4   |
or CHE 118A | Organic Chemistry for Health & Life Sciences |       |
CHE 008B | Organic Chemistry: Brief Course              | 4     |
or CHE 118B | Organic Chemistry for Health & Life Sciences |       |

Chemistry

BIS 002A | Introduction to Biology: Essentials of Life on Earth | 5 |

Biomedical Engineering

ENG 006 | Engineering Problem Solving                  | 4     |
ENG 017 | Circuits I                                   | 4     |
or ENG 017V | Circuits I                                   |       |

Biological Science

BIM 001 | Introduction to Biomedical Engineering       | 2     |
BIM 020 | Fundamentals of Bioengineering                | 4     |
BIM 020L | Graphics Design for BME                      | 2     |

Lower Division Composition/Writing; choose one; a grade of C- or better is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COM 001</td>
<td>Major Works of the Ancient World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 002</td>
<td>Major Works of the Medieval &amp; Early Modern World</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BIM 192 internship in Biomedical Engineering, or BIM 199 Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates.

Engineering Electives

Any letter-graded upper division Biomedical Engineering course that is not required. Courses that do not count are BIM 102, BIM 161A, BIM 161L, BIM 161S (Discontinued) and select variable unit classes from BIM 099, BIM 192, BIM 189A, BIM 189B, BIM 189C, BIM 199.

With the approval of the Biomedical Engineering Undergraduate Committee, 4 units:

BIM 192 internship in Biomedical Engineering, or BIM 199 Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates.

No more than 4 units allowed from lower division coursework.

ENG 035 Statics
ENG 045 Properties of Materials
or ENG 045Y Properties of Materials
ENG 102 Dynamics
ENG 103 Fluid Mechanics
ENG 104 Mechanics of Materials
ENG 104L Mechanics of Materials Laboratory
ENG 106 Engineering Economics
EEC 110A Introductory Electromagnetics I
EEC 110B Introductory Electromagnetics II
EEC 118 Digital Integrated Circuits
EEC 130A Electromagnetics I
EEC 130B Electromagnetics II
EEC 140A Principles of Device Physics I
or EEC 140AV Principles of Device Physics I
EEC 140B Principles of Device Physics II
EEC 151 Digital Signals & Systems
EEC 157A Control Systems
or EEC 157AV Control Systems
EEC 157B Control Systems
or EEC 157BY Control Systems
EEC 160 Signal Analysis & Communications
EBS 128 Biomechanics & Ergonomics
EBS 130 Modeling of Dynamic Processes in Biological Systems
EBS 165 Bioinstrumentation & Control
EBS 175 Rheology of Biological Materials
ECH 141 Fluid Mechanics for Biochemical & Chemical Engineers
ECH 144 Rheology & Polymer Processing
ECH 145A Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics Laboratory
ECH 145B Chemical Engineering Transport Lab
ECH 155 Chemical Engineering Kinetics & Reactor Design Laboratory
ECH 160 Fundamentals of Biomanufacturing
ECH 161A Biochemical Engineering Fundamentals (Discontinued)
ECH 161B Bioseparations (Discontinued)
ECH 161L Bioprocess Engineering Laboratory

ECH 170 Introduction to Colloid & Surface Phenomena
ECS 124 Theory & Practice of Bioinformatics
EMS 147/FPS 100 Principles of Polymer Materials Science
EMS 160 Thermodynamics of Materials
EMS 162 Structure & Characterization of Engineering Materials
EMS 162L Structure & Characterization of Materials Laboratory
EMS 164 Kinetics of Materials
EMS 172 Smart Materials
EMS 172L Smart Materials Laboratory
EMS 174 Mechanical Behavior of Materials
EMS 174L Mechanical Behavior Laboratory
EMS 180 Materials in Engineering Design
EMS 181 Manufacturing of 3D & Composite Materials
EMS 182 Failure Analysis
EME 150A Mechanical Design
EME 150B Mechanical Design
EME 151 Statistical Methods in Design & Manufacturing
EME 152 Computer-Aided Mechanism Design
EME 154 Mechatronics
EME 165 Heat Transfer
EME 171 Analysis, Simulation & Design of Mechatronic Systems
EME 172 Automatic Control of Engineering Systems

Additional Elective Policies

Choose one; grade of C- or better is required: 0-4

UWP 101 Advanced Composition
or UWP 101V Advanced Composition
or UWP 101Y Advanced Composition
UWP 102B Writing in the Disciplines: Biology
UWP 102E Writing in the Disciplines: Engineering
UWP 104A Writing in the Professions: Business Writing
or UWP 104AV Writing in the Professions: Business Writing
or UWP 104AY Writing in the Professions: Business Writing
UWP 104E Writing in the Professions: Science
UWP 104F Writing in the Professions: Health Writing
or UWP 104FV Writing in the Professions: Health Writing
or UWP 104FY Writing in the Professions: Health Writing
UWP 104I Writing in the Professions: Internships
UWP 104T Writing in the Professions: Technical Writing

Passing the Upper Division Composition Exam offered by the College of Letters & Science.

Upper Division Required Courses Subtotal 75-81

Total Units 158-162

1 2 units from CHE 118A may be applied towards Science Electives if CHE 118A is also used to satisfy lower division subject credit. 2
units from EEC 100 may be applied towards Engineering Electives if EEC 100 is taken to satisfy upper division subject credit. 1 unit from MAT 027A/BIS 027A and 1 unit from MAT 027B/BIS 027B may be applied to Science Electives.