# BIOTECHNOLOGY

## Graduate Program Head
Loida Escote-Carlson

## Program Code
BIOT

## Campus(es)
University Park (M.BIOT.)

## Degrees Conferred
- Master of Biotechnology (M.BIOT.)
- Integrated B.S. in Biotechnology and M.BIOT.

## The Graduate Faculty
View [here](https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/index.cfm?searchType=fac&prog=BIOT)

The Master of Biotechnology degree program is offered through a collaboration of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences. It is a multidisciplinary program involving faculty members from different academic departments in Penn State University as well as ad hoc mentors from the academic faculty and from industry.

The Master of Biotechnology curriculum is designed to give students broad knowledge and training in the scientific and practical aspects of biotechnology. It involves innovative, hands-on, and multidisciplinary learning approaches to educate and train students in the science behind biotechnology, its business and legal aspects, and the ethical and social issues that it brings about. In addition, the courses and the activities required of all students in this program develop transferable professional skills such as team-working and communication skills, which are very important in industry in particular.

Graduates of this program are expected to have the knowledge and training for diverse career options: as academic educators, as scientists in both academic and industry settings, as members of decision-making business and management teams in government and biotechnology industries, as bioentrepreneurs, and as members and leaders of governmental, public, and private organizations that deal with social, ethical and legal issues in biotechnology. Because of their broad knowledge in biotechnology, graduates of this program are expected to fill a niche in industry where knowledge and ability to interphase and communicate with various functional groups within the organization are required.

## Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission [here](http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions [here](http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

The program is appropriate for students with a baccalaureate degree in biological sciences, chemistry, or engineering or other baccalaureate degrees that include sufficient credits from relevant courses in the life sciences. Applicants must have a minimum junior/senior grade point average of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale). Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) scores are required for verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing. Typically, students are admitted as part of a cohort to commence studies in the Fall. The best-qualified applicants will be accepted up to the number of spaces available for new students.

## Degree Requirements

### Master of Biotechnology

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Requirements [here](http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

A minimum of 30 credits at the 400, 500, or 800 level is required for completion of the degree, 18 credits of which must be from courses in the 500 or 800 level, with a minimum of 6 credits at the 500 level. Students are required to take 16 to 18 credits from core courses listed below. Additional credits are from industry internship or cooperative education (co-op) and elective courses. A list of approved elective courses is maintained by the graduate program office. All Master of Biotechnology candidates are required to write a research paper based on a research project conducted in an academic, government, or industry research laboratory as the culmination for the experience for the degree. The research paper is completed while the student is enrolled in MCIBS 594.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMB 400</td>
<td>Molecular Biology of the Gene</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOTC 479 or BE 468</td>
<td>Methods in Biofermentations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCIBS 571</td>
<td>Current Issues in Biotechnology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCIBS 590</td>
<td>Colloquium</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCIBS 591</td>
<td>Ethics in the Life Sciences</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCIBS 593</td>
<td>Molecular Biology Laboratory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Electives

These courses are chosen from offerings in various academic departments based on students’ interest or track and career objectives. These also include MCIBS 595 (Internship) and any 596 (Individual Studies) course under a faculty member whose research relates to a student’s area of interest. A list of approved elective courses is maintained by the graduate program office.

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<tr>
<td>MCIBS 594</td>
<td>Research Topics</td>
<td>3-6</td>
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</table>

### Culminating Experience

The culminating experience for the Master of Biotechnology degree program involves faculty members from different academic departments based on students’ interest or track and career objectives.

## Integrated Undergrad-Grad Programs

### Integrated B.S. in Biotechnology and M.BIOT. in Biotechnology

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-210 Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) Degree Programs [here](http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-210-integrated-undergraduate-graduate-degree-programs).

The integrated B.S. in Biotechnology-Master of Biotechnology degree program is designed to enable qualified undergraduate students in the B.S. Biotechnology program to graduate in five years with the Master of Biotechnology degree.

### Admission Requirements

Students must apply to the program via the Graduate School application for admission [here](http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply), and must meet all the admission requirements of the Graduate School and the Biotechnology graduate program for the Master of Biotechnology degree, listed on the Admission Requirements tab. Students shall be admitted to an IUG program no earlier than the beginning of the third semester of undergraduate study at Penn State.
Students must have a GPA of 3.5 at the time of application to the integrated degree program when they have completed at least 75 credits of their B.S. curriculum. The GRE scores normally required in the Master of Biotechnology in Biotechnology program will be waived for applicants to the integrated B.S.-Master of Biotechnology degree.

In consultation with an adviser, students must prepare a plan of study appropriate to this integrated program, and must present their plan of study in person to the head of the graduate program or the appropriate committee overseeing the integrated program prior to being admitted to the program. The plan should cover the entire time period of the integrated program, and it should be reviewed periodically with an adviser as the student advances through the program.

**Degree Requirements**

Student must fulfill all degree requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the double-counting of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology are listed in the Undergraduate Bulletin (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate). Degree requirements for the Master of Biotechnology in Biotechnology degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab. Students must sequence their courses so all undergraduate degree requirements are fulfilled before taking courses to count solely towards the graduate degree. If students accepted into the IUG program are unable to complete the M.BIOT. degree, they are still eligible to receive their undergraduate degree if all the undergraduate degree requirements have been satisfied.

Up to 12 credits may be double-counted towards the degree requirements for both the graduate and undergraduate degrees; a minimum of 50% of the double-counted courses must be at the 500 or 800 level. Credits associated with the culminating experience for the graduate degree cannot be double-counted.

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**Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Biosciences (MCIBS) Course List**

(https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/mcibs)

**Learning Outcomes**

1. **KNOW.** Students will be able to demonstrate conceptual and practical knowledge of the broad aspects of biotechnology: the core areas in science and the technologies that drive progress in biotechnology, the business, intellectual property, regulatory, legal, social and ethical aspects of the biotechnology industry; students will also be able to show practical understanding of the professional skills vital to employment and career success in biotechnology.

2. **APPLY/CREATE/THINK.** Students will be able to demonstrate critical review of scientific literature, proficiency in the conduct of scientific research independently or in a team setting, as well as in non-bench research-related responsibilities in broad areas of biotechnology as necessary. Students will also demonstrate adequate professional preparation for competitive curricular employment (internships and cooperative education or co-op) and entry-level employment post-degree.

3. **COMMUNICATE.** Students will demonstrate skills in communicating scientifically through group work, research papers and oral presentations, and professionally through networking, interviews, resumes or curriculum vitae (CVs), and other required career-related activities.

4. **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.** Students will demonstrate knowledge of interpersonal workplace dynamics, the ability to perform in a team environment and adapt to a very dynamic biotechnology workplace, participation in professional networking, and engagement in professional activities and organizations serving the discipline and the industry.

**Contact**

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**Program Website**

View (https://www.huck.psu.edu/graduate-programs/master-of-biotechnology)