

Advising Notes for Biotechnology

Biotechnology Coordinator:

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Prerequisites for BT classes for students without a Life Sciences Degree

BT 101 Introduction to Biotechnology:

Prerequisite: none (contradicts the catalog - this web page is correct)

recommend taking CHEM 100 or CHEM 101 either prior to or concurrently with BT 101 but students may be enrolled without this suggested pre-requisite

Student will be more likely to be successful if completed or concurrently taking CHEM 100 or CHEM 101 or high school chemistry

BT 115 Instrumentation for Biotechnology

student should have completed at least CHEM 101.

BT 117 Cell Culture and Cell Function:

Prerequisite: Biology 107 (first semester college biology) or equivalent or permission of the coordinator

Student will be more likely to be successful if completed or concurrently taking CHEM 100 or CHEM 101.

BT 200 Protein Biotechnology:

Prerequisite: Chem 100 or Chem 101 and Biology 107 or equivalent or permission of the coordinator

Student will be more likely to succeed if completed CHEM 120 or CHEM 203.

BT 204 Immunology and Immunological Methods :

Prerequisite: BI 107 and CHEM 101 or permission of the coordinator

Student will be more likely to succeed if completed CHEM 120 or CHEM 203 and BI 203. Prefer student has had BT 200 prior to BT 204.

BT 213 Nucleic Acid Methods:

Prerequisite: BI 107 and CHEM 101 or permission of the coordinator

Student will be more likely to succeed if completed CHEM 120 or CHEM 203 and BI 203. Prefer student has had BT 200 prior to BT 213.

BT 221 Biotechnology Practicum.

Prerequisite: registration only with permission of the coordinator

Permission of the coordinator. Student must speak with coordinator and obtain consent directly from the Biotechnology Program coordinator. **(Please do not sign any student into this course - the coordinator must sign the registration form)**

In general:

I usually ask the student if they have a degree already, are working towards one or if they are transferring.

For students who have a BS degree (US or international) it should be okay to admit them to any BT course, however if they are seeking the certificate there is a preferred sequence - see Biotechnology FAQs. BT 221 (the Practicums) is the exception – a student must take and pass at least two BT lab courses first. Appropriate BS degrees would be in the life sciences such as Biology, Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, Immunology, Microbiology, Environmental Science, Biochemistry, Chemistry, . . . But please ask them to be honest with themselves - if it has been a few years since receiving their degree - as to how fresh their memory is – if they are hesitant then refer them to the BT coordinator. This may also apply to those with an MS degree in a Bioscience area.

If a student wants to use the program as stepping stone to employment they need to have a social security number, the proper visa and be able to pass the TOEFL. While the program has been highly successful at placing students in the local industry there are no promises, commitments, or guarantees made to the students regarding employment - the opportunity for an internship / employment depends

on the current job market and on the student as well (behavior in the classroom, laboratory skills and academic performance). Taking courses does not guarantee an internship.

For students with higher degrees Ph.D., MD or DVM please ask them to speak with the coordinator – this program is usually the wrong choice for them and the coordinator can advise them of other, more relevant educational opportunities. Please emphasize this is an *introductory* laboratory skill oriented program designed to train entry level workers and those are the jobs that students completing the program obtain. The salary range for such a position is \$22,000 to \$30,000 per year (\$12-16 /hr) and they are not managerial positions - after a year or more this positions can lead to managerial position. In general individuals with higher degrees are not considered for the entry level lab tech positions.