Biochemistry is a diverse discipline, and a bachelor's degree in it allows entry into fields such as biotechnology, cell biology, and the health professions. The Department of Biochemistry offers a B.S. or B.A. degree and students can choose one of three emphases - biology, chemistry, and medical sciences -- to meet their academic and career goals.

The Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Graduate Program offers both the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in biochemistry and molecular biology. Areas of research specialization represented within the graduate program include molecular biology, physical biochemistry, molecular endocrinology, plant biochemistry and molecular biology, signal transduction, and biomedical research. Each program prepares you well for either a research or teaching career in academia, or for a career in biochemical research at both the pure and applied levels in private, government or industrial laboratories.

Research Opportunities (Basic - Applied - Medical - Administrative)

University Laboratories
Federal Government Laboratories/Agencies
  National Science Foundation
  National Institutes of Health
  Food and Drug Administration
  Environmental Protection Agency
  Department of Agriculture
  Army/Navy
State and Local Government Laboratories/Agencies
  Public Health Departments
  Hospital Laboratories
  Commercial Medical Laboratories
  Independent Research Foundations
Industry Laboratories
  Pharmaceutical Companies
  Biotechnology Firms
  Food Processors
  Cosmetic Manufacturers
  Chemical and Petroleum Industries

Business Opportunities (Sales/Marketing - Technical Writing - Scientific Journalism - Regulatory Affairs - Administration/Management)

Biotechnology Industry
Pharmaceutical/Chemical Companies
Publishers: Textbook, Magazine, Newspaper, and Book
Software Firms
Regulatory Agencies

Teaching Opportunities (Elementary - Secondary - Post-Secondary)

Public and Private Elementary, Middle, and High Schools
Two-Year Community Colleges/Technical Institutes
Four-Year Institutions
Medical Schools

Professional Opportunities (Intellectual Property/Patent Law - Medicine)

Law Firms
Legal Departments of Corporations
Hospitals
Private Practice

What Can I Do With a Biochemistry Degree?

Research Opportunities

- Obtain bachelor's degree in biochemistry, biology, or chemistry to qualify for laboratory technician/research assistant positions
- Choose courses with laboratory work
- Get on the job experience in a laboratory and/or do a senior research project
- Complete a certificate training program, usually one year, to learn specialized laboratory techniques
- Earn master's degree in biochemistry for better positions, advancement opportunities, more responsibility, and higher pay
- Obtain Ph.D. to direct research projects and lead research teams

Business Opportunities

- Take business and/or computer classes
- Become familiar with desktop publishing and other software packages
- Develop written and oral communication skills
- Obtain an MBA or Ph.D. to reach high levels of administration

Teaching Opportunities

- Visit http://ami.ucr.edu to obtain information about the UCR California Tech Science & Mathematics Initiative
- Earn a higher degree in biochemistry and gain research experience. Ph.D. required for four-year research institutions
- Complete an accredited teacher preparation program for certification/license in biology and/or chemistry

Professional Opportunities

- Obtain a J.D.
- Earn a M.D.