

**BSc BIOCHEMISTRY**

HONORS OR SPECIALIZATION

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

**UPDATED FEBRUARY 2012**

This Academic Planning Guide highlights major points only regarding admission and transfer. Students are advised to read the university and RDC calendars, and the Alberta Transfer Guide for other necessary information. Some courses listed may have prerequisites; refer to [Course Descriptions](#). Access this guide online: [www.rdc.ab.ca/academic\\_advising](http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising).

**THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BSc HONORS, SPECIALIZATION, AND GENERAL PROGRAMS AT UOFA**

The 4-year **Honors programs** are the most desired route for students continuing to Master of Science (MSc) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and/or a research or academic career. Honors students focus on a major field of study, and are expected to maintain a higher standard of academic achievement than those in a Specialization or General program.

The 4-year **Specialization programs** do not concentrate on one subject to the same extent as the Honors programs. Specialization students take most of their courses in the major field of study, and are expected to maintain a higher standard of academic achievement than those in a General program. Specialization degrees can provide the background to help you proceed to a higher degree but their primary function is to provide a comprehensive education at the undergraduate level.

Transfer admission to Honors and Specialization programs requires a minimum course load and GPA in each year of post-secondary study preceding admission. Students wishing to move into these programs must meet the requirements regardless of their original/current program of study.

The 4-year **General program** provides a diverse education in more than one branch of study. Each student must complete a Science major and also a second Science major *or* complete a minor. The minor may be in Science or in Agricultural, Life & Environmental Science, Arts or Business. The General program allows for subsequent transfer to Specialization and Honors programs and may be used to prepare for admission to professional programs.

**SUGGESTED PATTERN OF COURSES YEAR 1**

FALL TERM	WINTER TERM
MATH 202 or 203 (3) <sup>1</sup>	One of: MATH 221, 204; STAT 251(3)
CHEM 211 (3)	CHEM 212 (3)
BIOL 217 (3)	CHEM 351 (3) <sup>2</sup>
ENGL 219 (3)	ENGL 220 (3)
PHYS 205 (3)	PHYS 226 (3)

**NOTES:**

1. Students with a grade of 70% or higher in Math 31 are advised to take MATH 203.
2. Students with credit in CHEM 251 should not take CHEM 351.

## ALL BACHELOR OF SCIENCE STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO:

1. Consult [Course Descriptions](#) for possible course pre-requisites,
2. Check [Alberta Transfer Guide](#) concerning course credit transfer to UofA, and
3. Consult the [University of Alberta Calendar](#) for admission and program information.

## TRANSFER CHECKLIST

1. **Junior Level Courses:** Not more than \*42 (42 credits) of all courses taken can be at the junior level (100-level at UofA). Any junior course in excess of \*42 will not be counted towards the Science degree.
2. **Honors Program:** Students who intend to transfer to this Honors program require a minimum GPA of 3.3 on \*30 *in each preceding Fall/Winter*. Honors is the preferred program for students who plan graduate study.
3. **Specialization Program:** Students transferring into this Specialization program require a minimum GPA of 2.7 on a minimum of \*24 *in each preceding Fall/Winter*. If applicant has taken Introductory Biochemistry (BIOC 301 or 393), a minimum grade of B- is required.
4. The Biochemistry Department encourages a student with one "fault" to the stated rules (GPA or course load) to apply to their desired program. A review of such applications is done on a case-by-case basis; there is no guarantee.
5. **Spring term courses:** a spring term course may be taken in year of transfer if it is not required for admission to the program. The grade will not be calculated in the AGPA nor will it count towards Fall/Winter course load. Ensure the transcript submitted shows registration in the spring course.
6. **A minimum grade of C-** must be achieved in order for course credit to be transferable. However, while courses with grades of D or F will not transfer, they remain on your transcript and will be used in calculation of your GPA.
7. **Conditional Admission:** If you have higher than average standing in your post-secondary courses, you may be eligible for conditional admission. The transcript deadline for conditional admission is March 15<sup>th</sup>. See UofA website.
8. **Course Attempts:** Students attending UofA are allowed to attempt a course no more than two times and cannot retake a course in which a passing grade was received. However, UofA honours the decisions of other institutions with respect to their students, so if a student attempts a course twice at RDC (withdrawal, failing grade or non-transferable grade), UofA will accept the third attempt (if it is a C- or better) when determining transfer credit.

When calculating the AGPA, UofA will use all grades obtained in the most recent terms containing at least \*24, including both a failing/non-transferable grade and a transferable grade in the same course. The first grade of C- or better received in a course is the only grade accepted for that course. Therefore, repeating a course for a higher grade is not advisable. If a student truly believes that he/she needs to repeat a course (in which a transferable grade was already earned) to master the material sufficiently to successfully continue in the program, it is recommended that the student audit the course.

9. **Academic Standing:** If you earn or have earned a GPA below 2.0 in any academic year of post-secondary education you are strongly advised to consult the UofA Calendar and contact the Faculty of Science **now** concerning your future admission to programs in the faculty. See [UofA Calendar](#) 15.15.7(3) and 15.15.7(4) and contact information in *How to Find more Information*.
10. **Application deadline:** May 1st     **Transcript deadline for transfer students:** June 15th
11. **Regarding course transfer to University of Alberta & to Augustana Faculty:** when checking course transfer to University of Alberta, please note that courses which have AU as the first two letters of the course abbreviation in the Alberta Transfer Guide will transfer only to the UofA Augustana Faculty in Camrose. In order for a course to also transfer to other UofA faculties, there must be another entry indicating transfer as a course not beginning with AU. For example:

CMPT 214 = UofA CMPUT 114 (3) OR AUCSC 1xx (3)  
CMPT 261 = UofA AUCSC 1xx (3)

CMPT 214 is transferable to all UofA faculties, including Augustana, whereas CMPT 261 is accepted by Augustana Faculty only and will not transfer to other faculties.

## HOW TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

### [Science Department](#)

Warren Elgersma, Chairperson  
Office: 1607-E 403-343-4052  
[warren.elgersma@rdc.ab.ca](mailto:warren.elgersma@rdc.ab.ca)  
[http://www.rdc.ab.ca/about\\_rdc/academic\\_departments/sciences](http://www.rdc.ab.ca/about_rdc/academic_departments/sciences)

### [Academic Advising](#)

Academic Advising Centre: Room 1102  
[advisors@rdc.ab.ca](mailto:advisors@rdc.ab.ca) 403-342-3163  
[http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic\\_advising](http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising)

### [RDC Website](#)

<http://www.rdc.ab.ca>

### [RDC Timetable](#)

<http://www.rdc.ab.ca/timetable>

### [Alberta Transfer Guide](#)

<http://www.acat.gov.ab.ca>

### [Faculty of Science](#)

<http://www.science.ualberta.ca> 1-800-358-8314

### [Department of Biochemistry](#)

<http://biochem.ualberta.ca>

### [University of Alberta](#)

<http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca>

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Be aware that you are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at RDC and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer.

You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit or admission requirements for future programs. Consult with an academic advisor if you have any questions.

The function of academic advisors is to provide students with information and resources that enable them to make informed decisions relevant to their education. These resources include the RDC Calendar, the Academic Planning Guide for your chosen program and destination university, the Alberta Transfer Guide and the calendar and contact information for your destination university. Academic advisors will assist you in interpreting information from these resources or refer you to your destination university if appropriate. Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.