

To: Chairman Linda Wolfe

From: James Collins  
Member, Undergraduate Program Committee  
Department of Chemistry

Date: April 3, 2012

Re: Removing Foundation Curriculum Credit from CHEM 2770

Members of the Foundations Curriculum Committee,

The department of Chemistry would like to respectfully request that Foundation Curriculum credit is removed from CHEM 2770, Biological Chemistry and its corresponding laboratory, CHEM 2771, Biological Chemistry Laboratory. Although these courses are introductory courses in Biochemistry, they are outside the scope of a Foundations Course as defined by the University in the "Guidelines for Outcome Assessment of Foundation Courses". These courses are primarily taken by Chemistry majors or as an elective by students that wish to enter health professions. The composition of the students that enrolls in these courses is predominantly upperclassmen. Indeed, a prerequisite for taking CHEM 2770 and CHEM 2771 is successful completion of sophomore level, Organic Chemistry (CHEM 2650 or CHEM 2760). Although the content of Biological Chemistry is interdisciplinary and relevant to health and allied sciences, it does not provide the fundamental core knowledge for which all other scholarship is grounded. For example, the scientific method, a core principle in the content of basic sciences would not be surveyed as a topic in CHEM 2770. Biological Chemistry is highly specialized and is intended for those students that want to explore biological pathways in living organisms on the submicroscopic level. Moreover, Biological chemistry is founded upon principles that were learned in earlier Biology and Chemistry courses. For these reasons, we believe that the Foundation Curriculum credit should be removed from both courses.

These changes were approved by the Department of Chemistry's Undergraduate Program Committee and the voting faculty of the Chemistry department. Thank you in advance for your committee's consideration.