Computational Biology

Computational biology involves the analysis and discovery of biological phenomena using computational tools, and the algorithmic design and analysis of such tools. The field is widely defined and includes foundations in computer science, applied mathematics, statistics, biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, ecology, evolution, anatomy, neuroscience, and visualization.

Students may pursue a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science. Students pursuing the ScB have the option of electing a concentration in Computational Biology with one of three focus areas: Computer Sciences, Biological Sciences, or Applied Mathematics & Statistics. Both programs require a senior capstone experience that pairs students and faculty in creative research collaborations.

**Standard program for the A.B. degree**

**Prerequisites:**
- MATH 0100: Introductory Calculus, Part II
- or MATH 0170: Advanced Placement Calculus
- BIOL 0200: The Foundation of Living Systems

**General Core Requirements: Biology**
- BIOL 0470: Genetics
- BIOL 0280: Biochemistry
- or BIOL 0500: Cell and Molecular Biology

**General Core Requirements: Chemistry**
- CHEM 0330: Equilibrium, Rate, and Structure
- or CHEM 0350: Organic Chemistry

**General Core Requirements: Computer Science**
- CSCI 0150 & CSCI 0160: Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming and Computer Science
- or CSCI 0190 & CSCI 0180: Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction
- or CSCI 0190 & CSCI 0320 & CSCI 0330 & CSCI 0101: Introduction to Software Engineering and Introduction to Computer Systems and Theory of Computation

**General Core Requirements: Probability & Statistics**
- APMA 1650: Statistical Inference I
- or CSCI 1450: Probability and Computing
- or MATH 1610: Probability

**Comp Bio Core Course Requirements**
- CSCI 1810: Computational Molecular Biology
- APMA 1080: Inference in Genomics and Molecular Biology
- AND two of the following:
  - CSCI 1820: Algorithmic Foundations of Computational Biology
  - BIOL 1430: Population Genetics
  - BIOL 1465: Human Population Genomics
  - CSCI 1420: Machine Learning
  - APMA 1690: Computational Probability and Statistics

**University Writing Requirement:**
As part of Brown's writing requirement, all students must demonstrate that they have worked on their writing both in their general studies and their concentration. There are a number of ways for Computational Biology concentrators to fulfill these requirements:

- Writing an Honors Thesis
- Taking a "WRIT" course in the final two years

**Capstone Experience**

Students enrolled in the computational biology concentration will complete a research project in their senior year under faculty supervision. The themes of such projects evolve with the field and the technology, but should represent a synthesis of the various specialties of the program. The requirements are either one semester of reading and research with a CCMB Faculty member or approved advisor, or a 2000-level Computational Biology course.

**Standard program for the Sc.B. degree**

**Prerequisites**
- MATH 0100: Introductory Calculus, Part II (or equivalent)
- or MATH 0170: Advanced Placement Calculus
- BIOL 0200: The Foundation of Living Systems (or equivalent)

**General Core Course Requirements: Biology**
- BIOL 0470: Genetics
- BIOL 0280: Biochemistry
- or BIOL 0500: Cell and Molecular Biology

**General Core Requirements: Chemistry**
- CHEM 0330: Equilibrium, Rate, and Structure
- or CHEM 0350: Organic Chemistry

**General Core Requirements: Computer Science**
- CSCI 0150 & CSCI 0160: Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming and Computer Science
- or CSCI 0190 & CSCI 0320 & CSCI 0330: Accelerated Introduction to Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction
- or CSCI 0190 & CSCI 0320: Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction
- or CSCI 0190: Accelerated Introduction to Computer Science
- or CSCI 0180: Introduction to Discrete Structures and Probability

**General Core Requirements: Probability & Statistics**
- APMA 1650: Statistical Inference I
- or CSCI 1450: Probability and Computing
- or MATH 1610: Probability

**Additional course with Director approval**
Capstone Experience

BIOL 1950/1960 Directed Research/Independent Study
CSCI 1970 Individual Independent Study

Six courses in one of the following three tracks: 6

Computer Science Track:
Three of the following:
CSCI 1230 Introduction to Computer Graphics
CSCI 1270 Database Management Systems
CSCI 1410 Artificial Intelligence
CSCI 1550 Probabilistic Methods in Computer Science
CSCI 1570 Design and Analysis of Algorithms
or other Computer Science courses approved by the concentration advisor

Three of the following:
CSCI 0330 Introduction to Computer Systems
or CSCI 0320 Introduction to Software Engineering
CSCI 1820 Algorithmic Foundations of Computational Biology
PHP 2620 Statistical Methods in Bioinformatics, I
APMA 1660 Statistical Inference II
BIOL 1430 Population Genetics
BIOL 1465 Human Population Genomics
APMA 1690 Computational Probability and Statistics

Biological Sciences track
At least four courses comprising a coherent theme in one of the following areas: Biochemistry, Ecology, Evolution, or Neurobiology.

AND select two courses from the following:
CSCI 1820 Algorithmic Foundations of Computational Biology
PHP 2620 Statistical Methods in Bioinformatics, I
APMA 1660 Statistical Inference II
BIOL 1430 Population Genetics
BIOL 1465 Human Population Genomics
APMA 1690 Computational Probability and Statistics

Applied Mathematics & Statistics Track:
At least three courses from the following:
APMA 1660 Statistical Inference II
APMA 1690 Computational Probability and Statistics
CSCI 1410 Artificial Intelligence
APMA 0340 Methods of Applied Mathematics I, II
& APMA 0330 Methods of Applied Mathematics I, II
OR
APMA 0360 & APMA 0350 Applied Partial Differential Equations I
and Applied Ordinary Differential Equations

At least three of the following:
BIOL 1430 Population Genetics
CSCI 1820 Algorithmic Foundations of Computational Biology
PHP 2620 Statistical Methods in Bioinformatics, I
APMA 1070 Quantitative Models of Biological Systems
BIOL 1465 Human Population Genomics

Total Credits 18-20

Honors:
In order to be considered a candidate for honors, students will be expected to maintain an outstanding record, with no “C’s” in concentration courses and with a minimum of an “A-” average in concentration courses. In addition, students should take at least one semester, and are strongly encouraged to take 2 semesters, of reading and research with a CCMB faculty member or approved advisor. Students must submit a public defense of their theses to be open to the CCMB community.

- Students seeking honors are advised to choose a Thesis Advisor prior to the end of their Junior year
- Students must complete the Registration form for Comp Bio and submit it to CCMB@BROWN.EDU

Any deviation from these rules must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies, in consultation with the student's advisor.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Helvetica was used instead of Arial.
The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.