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 or MATH 0170
- BIOL 0200

**General Core Course Requirements: Biology**
- BIOL 0470
- BIOL 0280 or BIOL 0500

**General Core Course Requirements: Chemistry**
- CHEM 0330 or CHEM 0350

**General Core Course Requirements: Computer Science**
- CSCI 0150 & CSCI 0160
- CSCI 0170 & CSCI 0180
- CSCI 0190 & CSCI 0180 & CSCI 0320 & CSCI 0330 & CSCI 1010

**General Core Course Requirements: Probability & Statistics**
- APMA 1650

**Comp Bio Core Course Requirements**
- CSCI 1810
- APMA 1080

**Additional course with Director approval**

**Total Credits:** 12

**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 or MATH 0170 (or equivalent)
- BIOL 0200 or BIOL 0500

**General Core Course Requirements: Biology**
- BIOL 0470
- BIOL 0280 or BIOL 0500

**General Core Course Requirements: Chemistry**
- CHEM 0330 or CHEM 0350

**General Core Course Requirements: Computer Science**
- CSCI 0150 & CSCI 0160
- CSCI 0170 & CSCI 0180
- CSCI 0190 & CSCI 0180 & CSCI 0320 & CSCI 0330

**General Core Course Requirements: Probability & Statistics**
- APMA 1650 or APMA 1450

**Computational Biology**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APMA 1690</td>
<td>Computational Probability and Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>APMA 1660</td>
<td>Statistical Inference II</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1430</td>
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<td>BIOL 1465</td>
<td>Human Population Genomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSCI 1420</td>
<td>Machine Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 1610</td>
<td>Probability for Computing and Data Analysis</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSCI 1810</td>
<td>Computational Molecular Biology</td>
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</table>
APMA 1080  Inference in Genomics and Molecular Biology  1

Capstone Experience  1
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 & 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 to 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.