

Biochemistry 2280A – Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Course Syllabus for Section 650 Distance Studies - Summer 2026



Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**; therefore, your health and wellness matter to us! The following link provides information about the resources available on and off campus to support students: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> Your course coordinator can also **guide you** to resources and/or services should you need them.

The Department of Biochemistry recognizes diversity of identity and experience as a source of strength that promotes excellence, innovation, flexibility and adaptability in our discipline. We embrace, nurture, value and celebrate this diversity.

1. Technical Requirements:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer

2. Important Dates:

Term Begins	Holidays	Term Ends	Exams – Midterm and Final
May 4	May 18	June 12	Tues. May 26 & June 16 (7:00 pm)

*June 8, 2026: Last day to withdraw from summer Distance course without academic penalty

The Midterm and Final Exam are in-person on the Western campus

All material for this course will be provided online through OWL-Brightspace

Students only need to come to the Western campus for the above testing dates

3. Contact Information

Role	Name	Contact Information
Course Coordinator & Instructor	Dr. Brian Dempsey (he/him)	brian.dempsey@uwo.ca Room 389, Medical Sciences Building
Course Administrator	Ms. Neiven Timothaws	neiven.timothaws@schulich.uwo.ca Room 342, Medical Sciences Building

Contact Procedures

Rather than emailing Dr. Dempsey directly, students should post questions about course content and structure on the **Biochemistry 2280A OWL Brightspace Discussions site**. Dr. Dempsey will also hold virtual office hours on Zoom every week according to a schedule that will be announced at the start of the course.

Students may email Dr. Dempsey directly if they have a question that contains information that should not be viewed by the entire class.

Teaching assistants will be available for tutorial sessions through OWL-Zoom; details will be announced in the first week of the course.

4. Course Description and Design

Delivery Mode:

Course Element	Delivery Mode	Notes
Course content/Lecture	Online asynchronous	Live office hours will be recorded and posted to OWL Brightspace
Midterm/Final Exam	In-Person: Western campus	London, ON – Room TBD

There are no in-person lectures for this course. Course materials and video lectures are posted to the OWL Brightspace course site. Some materials may contain links to suggested external materials or videos, the content found at these links is beyond the control of the course instructor and Western University.

All due dates and timed assessments are scheduled in the Eastern Daylight Time zone (EDT, Western University, London, ON).

Course Description: Biochemistry is the study of the molecules of life and centers on four key groups of biomolecules: proteins, lipids, carbohydrates and nucleic acids. Students will learn about the structure and function of these key biomolecules, the mechanics by which the cellular machinery is supplied with energy, and how the genetic material is converted to functional information. Students will also learn the techniques of recombinant DNA technology and bioinformatics that have profoundly changed how we study and use cell functions.

Prerequisites: Either Biology 1001A or Biology 1201A and either Biology 1002B or Biology 1202B; Chemistry 1301A/B and Chemistry 1302A/B. Integrated Science 1001X can be used as a prerequisite in place of Biology 1002B and Chemistry 1302A/B

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). Contact by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge about the structure, roles, and functions of the different classes of biomolecules.
2. Provide examples where defects in biochemical processes result in disease, and predict potential outcomes of biochemical defects.
3. Describe the central pathways that provide living organisms with energy, and the regulation of these pathways.
4. Detail information flow in living systems and mechanisms that regulate the expression of genetic material.
5. Formulate an approach to clone and express a gene of interest in bacteria.
6. Obtain and interpret scientific information from different sources, including literature, databases, online tools, and oral presentations.

6. Course Content and Schedule

Recommended Dates		Topics	Approx. time commitment*	Assessment Due
	Unit A		20 hours	
Week 1 May 4 – 10	Topic 1	Fundamental concepts of biochemistry	2 hours	
	Topic 2	Amino acids and ionization	4.5 hours	
	Topic 3	Protein structure and analysis	4.5 hours	
	Topic 4	Protein function	4.5 hours	May 10: Background Quiz Due
	Topic 5	Enzyme catalysis	4.5 hours	May 10: Progress Check 1-5
	Unit B		30 hours	
Week 2 May 11 – 17	Topic 6	Lipids and membranes	4 hours	
	Topic 7	Carbohydrate Structure	4 hours	
	Topic 8	Fundamental Concepts in Metabolism	3 hours	
	Topic 9	Carbohydrate Metabolism	4 hours	May 17: Progress Check 6-9
Week 3 May 18 – 24	Topic 10	Citric Acid cycle	4.5 hours	
	Topic 11	Oxidative phosphorylation	4.5 hours	May 19: Assignment Due
	Topic 12	Lipid Metabolism	3 hours	
	Topic 13	Summary of energy metabolism	3 hours	May 24: Progress Check 10-13
Tues. May 26, 7 pm	Midterm	Topics 1 – 13		May 26: Midterm**
	Unit C		40 hours	
Week 4 May 25 – 31	Topic 14	Nucleic Acid Structure	4 hours	
	Topic 15	DNA Replication	4 hours	
	Topic 16	DNA Repair	4 hours	
	Topic 17	Molecular Basis of Cancer	4 hours	May 31: Progress Check 14-17
Week 5 June 1 – 7	Topic 18	Prokaryotic Transcription	4 hours	
	Topic 19	Eukaryotic Transcription	3 hours	
	Topic 20	RNA Processing	3 hours	
	Topic 21	Translation	4 hours	June 7: Progress Check 18-21
Week 6 June 8 – 12	Topic 22	Recombinant DNA Technology	6 hours	
	Topic 23	Sequencing Genomes	4 hours	June 12: Progress Check 22-23
Tues. June 16, 7 pm	Final Exam Covers Topics 14 – 23			June 16: Final Exam**

*Suggested time commitments do not include time spent on assignments or studying for testing

** Midterm and Final Exam testing is in-person on the Western campus in London

7. Participation and Engagement

- Students are expected to participate in all course assessments and engage with course content as much as possible
- Students can also participate by interacting in the OWL discussion forums with their peers and instructors and by attending instructor and TA office hours.

8. Assessment and Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Component	Topics	Date/Time (EDT)	% of Final Grade	Flexibility
Background Quiz	prerequisite material	Sun. May 10, 11:59 pm	3 (best of 2 attempts)	Reweighting + 48-hr no penalty period
Weekly Progress Checks: Videos + Quiz	1-5 6-9 10-13 14-17 18-21 22-23	Sun. May 10, 11:59 pm Sun. May 17, 11:59 pm Sun. May 24, 11:59 pm Sun. May 31, 11:59 pm Sun. June 7, 11:59 pm Fri. June 12, 11:59 pm	16 (4 of 6 weeks)	Reweighting + 48-hr no penalty period
Assignment	various	Tues. May 19, 11:59 pm	15	Reweighting + 72-hr no penalty period
Midterm exam	1-13	Tues. May 26, 7:00 pm (3 hr)	33	Reweighting
Final exam	14-23	Tues. June 16, 7:00 pm (3 hr)	33	Reweighting + designated

Final Course Grade Calculations – Best reweighting scenario will automatically be used

Assessment	1	2	3	4
Background Quiz	3	0	3	0
Weekly Progress Checks 4/6	16	16	0	0
Assignment	15	15	15	15
Midterm test*	33	34.5	41	42.5
Final exam*	33	34.5	41	42.5

*Reweighting - 3% of exam weighting will be shifted to the better of the two exam marks (e.g. for scenario 1 in this table; if the midterm mark is higher than the final exam mark, the weighting will be Midterm 36% and Final Exam 30%). This extends to all four scenarios in the table above for a total of eight calculations.

Designated Assessment: Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. See below for information on academic consideration policy and missed course work. For this course the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation:

Final exam – Tues. June 16

Information about flexibility in assessment

- Flexibility in assessment has been applied to this course (drop lowest marks, flexible reweighting, flexible due dates, see below); therefore, academic consideration requests may be denied on the assessments where flexibility is included

- This course has 6 Weekly Progress Checks with only 4/6 counted towards your final grade. Academic Consideration will not be granted for missed progress checks. Students will receive a grade of zero for any incomplete progress checks.
- Each student's final mark will be the highest mark obtained from the 8 possible scenarios above including midterm and final exam weight redistribution.
- This course employs flexible due dates for the quizzes, assignment, and progress checks. The due dates can be found in the above table. For each assessment, students are expected to complete/submit them by the due date listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the due date, and complete their progress checks up to 48 hours past the due date, without a late penalty. Should students submit their assignment beyond the no penalty period, a late penalty of 1% per minute will be subtracted from the assignment grade. Progress checks and Quizzes will be given a mark of zero after the no penalty period ends.
- Requests for academic consideration supported by documentation must be submitted within 48 hours of the original assessment due date. The instructor reserves the right to deny such academic considerations, given the above flexibility provided. If you have a long-term academic consideration or an accommodation for disability that allows greater flexibility than provided here, please reach out to your instructor at least one week prior to the posted deadline.

General information about assessments

- All assignments and quizzes are due at 11:59 EDT unless otherwise specified
- Students are responsible for ensuring that the correct file version is uploaded to the correct location(s); incorrect submissions including corrupt files could be subject to late penalties (see above) or a 0
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback and marking information before contacting the instructor; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days.
- Any grade appeals on assignments, quizzes, or exams must be received within 1 week of the grade being posted.
- Assessment re-grading could result in a mark increasing, decreasing, or remaining the same.
- 15% of your course grade will be evaluated and returned 3 days prior to the drop deadline (statement in policies below).

Background Quiz – The background quiz consists of questions designed to help you remember key concepts relevant to Biochemistry that have been covered in first-year Biology and Chemistry prerequisite courses. The quiz will be available on OWL Brightspace on the first day of class and is due by Sunday May 10 at 11:59 pm. It is recommended that students complete this quiz before accessing the 2280 course material. You can repeat the quiz two times before the due date; your best score from your two attempts will be used for calculation of your final grade.

Weekly Progress Checks (6 total; 4 best count)

The progress checks are designed to help students keep up with the assigned weekly course content. The progress checks consist of two parts:

1. Watching assigned Lecture Videos (3%)
2. Concept check quiz (1%)

Scoring and flexibility: Your best 4 of 6 Weekly Progress Check scores will count toward your final grade (i.e., up to 16% total). This provides flexibility in completing material in two weeks of the course without penalty to your grade.

Grade protection (reweighting): If your Weekly Progress Check total lowers your overall course grade, the Progress Check weight will be reallocated to the midterm and final exam (proportionally), so you are not disadvantaged by this component (see weighting scenario table above).

Due dates: See the schedule table above. A 48-hour no penalty period applies to both parts of the Weekly Progress Check. After the no penalty period ends, the Progress Check for that week receives zero.

1. Lecture Video Check – 3%

For this progress check component students must watch all assigned topic videos for a given week of the course by the due date. This requirement is in place to help students keep pace with the assigned material, like an attendance mark for in-person lectures.

Details:

- The 3% is awarded automatically as all-or-nothing when the Panopto video server records completion of all assigned videos for that week.
- You must watch videos while signed in to your Western account, so that your viewing is recorded.
- All weekly topic videos must be watched in full in real time. For example, for week 1 topics 1-5 are assigned; so all of the minutes in the topic 1 videos (1A) must be watched, and all of the minutes in the topic 2 videos (2A and 2B) must be watched, and so on for topics 3, 4, and 5. Seeking and fast-forward features on the videos are locked until a first viewing is completed, then sections of the videos can be replayed as desired if needed. Videos may not be watched simultaneously to count for marks.
- While it is recommended that students complete all topic content in a specific order (Topic Notes, Videos, Independent Learning Modules, etc.) only the Topic Videos are required to be completed for this part of the Progress Check mark.

2. Concept check quiz – 1%

Each week includes a short Concept Check Quiz to help you confirm understanding of that week's material. The quiz is due on the same schedule as the Lecture Video Check.

Details:

- This 1% is awarded as pass/fail at a quiz mark of 80% or higher.
- Quizzes are open-book and timed in OWL Brightspace and are available during the week they cover.
- Quizzes typically have ~10 questions (primarily multiple choice; may include matching or fill-in-the-blank).
- Timing is set at approximately 2 minutes per question.
- No backward navigation is allowed (answers are final once you advance).

Assignment – The assignment will be available on OWL Brightspace towards the end of the first week of the course. Students must submit two identical copies of their assignment answers: one copy to Turnitin through the OWL Brightspace assignments tab, and one copy to Gradescope. Both copies of the assignment must be submitted to the respective sites by the assignment due date (see schedule above) or the assignment will be considered late. Further instructions will be provided in the assignment document.

Midterms and Final Exam – There is one scheduled midterm test and one final exam.

The Midterm will cover Topics 1 to 13 and will be: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 7 pm (3 hr).

The Final Exam will cover Topics 14 to 23 and will be: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 7 pm (3 hr).

The midterm and final exam will be written in-person on the Western campus in London in a room that will be announced on OWL Brightspace. The midterm and final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions. Practice questions to help students prepare for these assessments are available on OWL Brightspace as practice quizzes.

Room assignments for the midterm tests and final exam will be posted on the OWL Brightspace course site. All students are responsible for determining where they are to write each examination and to appear in the designated room on time. Students must provide their own pencils and erasers (pens are not

allowed) for the examinations and they MUST bring their Student ID card. Electronic devices, including (but not limited to) calculators, cell phones, Smart Glasses, and Smart Watches are NOT allowed in the exam rooms. If a student is found to have a cell phone or any of these other devices on their person during a test or exam they will automatically receive a mark of zero.

Biochemistry 2280A assessments include multiple choice components. The course uses software that will detect unusual coincidences in answer patterns that indicates cheating. The handling of academic offenses is described in the sections below.

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed assessments:

- Late assignments without academic consideration will be subject to a late penalty of 1%/minute after the no penalty period.
- Quizzes and progress checks cannot be completed after the no penalty period and will receive a mark of zero. Academic Considerations cannot be applied to these assessments.
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class.
- One make-up midterm and one makeup final exam will be offered.

Makeup midterm: Saturday May 30 @ 2:00 pm (tentative)

Makeup final exam: Saturday June 20 @ 2:00 pm (tentative)

- The midterm exam and the final exam must be completed to pass the course. If the student misses the midterm (with Academic Consideration) they will be given a comprehensive final exam covering all course content (topics 1-23) and weighed for both the midterm and final exams. If the student does not write the final exam or their comprehensive exam during the summer 2280 course they will receive a course grade of SPC (described below).

INC (Incomplete Standing): If a student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office (in consultation with the instructor/department) to complete term work at a later date, an INC will be assigned. Students with INC will have their course load in subsequent terms reduced to allow them to complete outstanding course work. Students may request permission from Academic Advising to carry a full course load for the term the incomplete course work is scheduled.

SPC (Special examination): If a student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office to write a Special Examination and the final exam is the only outstanding course component, an SPC will be assigned. If the class has a makeup exam, the student is expected to write the makeup exam. If the class doesn't have a makeup exam or the student misses the makeup exam for reasons approved by the Academic Advising Office, the student will write the exam the next time the course is offered. Outstanding SPCs will reduce the course load for the term the exam is deferred as outlined in [Types of Examinations](#) policy.

9. Communication

- Students should check the OWL Brightspace site daily
- Students should also check their email for course announcements daily
- This course will use the **2280 OWL Discussions** page for all course-related queries so that everyone can access the queries and responses about the course structure and content. Students will have the option of making their Discussions posts anonymous (name hidden) to other students in the course. Please keep

your interactions friendly and respectful. Dr. Dempsey will monitor the discussion posts and typically respond in 24 hours. Students are also encouraged to respond to student posted questions.

- For confidential matters students may email Dr. Dempsey directly. Typically students will receive a response in 24–48 hours

10. Office Hours

- Office hours with Dr. Dempsey will be held remotely using a Zoom meeting linked through OWL
- Office hours will be held weekly (TBA at the start of the course)
- Additional special review sessions for student questions will be held with Dr. Dempsey before midterm and final exam (remote-Zoom, TBA).
- Office hours will be drop in and the sessions will be recorded and posted to OWL for those who are unable to attend. These sessions may end early if attendance is low.
- Students can request to schedule tutorial sessions with Teaching Assistants (TAs) through OWL Discussions. Student requests should include information about the course content they would like help with so that the TAs can prepare for the tutorial. Once the TA schedules a tutorial session it will be posted to OWL and any interested students can attend and ask questions.

11. Resources

- All resources will be posted in OWL Brightspace. **To access the course material on OWL Brightspace, you must achieve a perfect score on a quiz relating to this course syllabus (12 questions correct).** This quiz does not count toward your mark, and you can repeat it as many times as needed.
- Required Textbook: [Essential Biochemistry, Fifth Edition by Charlotte Pratt & Kathleen Cornely](#), published by Wiley Inc. This book is available online through WileyPlus, or as a physical book; to purchase either, inquire at the campus bookstore. Refer to the Topic Lecture Notes on the OWL Brightspace site for the required textbook readings. Book + WileyPlus (180 days) = \$141.80, WileyPlus only (180 days) = \$89.00
- Course notes for each topic as well as recorded lectures and interactive online modules are available on OWL Brightspace. Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian copyright laws.

12. Professionalism & Privacy

Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared (e.g., Must Knows Facebook group, Course Hero, Chegg, etc.)
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed

Western is committed to providing a learning and working environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. All **students**, staff, and faculty have a role in this commitment and have a responsibility to ensure and promote a safe and respectful learning and working environment. Relevant policies include Western's Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy (M.A.P.P. 1.35) and Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy – Administrative Procedures (M.A.P.P. 1.35). Any **student**, staff, or faculty member who experiences or witnesses' behaviour that may be harassment or discrimination **must report the behaviour** to the Western's [Human Rights Office](#). Harassment and discrimination can be human rights-based, which is also known as EDI-based, (sexism, racism, transphobia, homophobia, islamophobia, xenophobia, antisemitism, and ableism) or non-human rights-based (personal harassment or workplace harassment).

13. How to Be Successful in this Class

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. It is important to keep up with the course material assigned each week, do not fall behind or it will be

- very difficult to prepare for the exams. Plan your weekly course work ahead of time and stick to your schedule, don't make exceptions.
2. Use a planner or scheduling application to keep track of your course assessments and progress. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule your time throughout the course.
 3. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL Brightspace to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
 4. It is recommended that you complete the practice quizzes in a test-like setting. Take each quiz or multiple quizzes without accessing any resources before checking your performance. Studies have shown that practicing tests will reduce your stress and help you recall the content.
 5. You can also practice your recall and command of the content by going through your study notes (make good ones) and covering everything except for the headings/subheadings. Then test yourself on what content you know about those headings. Review what you missed and repeat. This strategy will effectively add even more testing practice to your study routine.
 6. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
 7. Write out your study notes in your own words. Writing by hand (even on a tablet) is best. Studies have demonstrated that rephrasing content in your own words when taking notes helps solidify concepts for students.
 8. Follow checklists created on OWL Brightspace or create your own to help you stay on track.
 9. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards on OWL or contact your instructor and or teaching assistant(s).
 10. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

14. Western Academic Policies and Statements

A. Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on [Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate, or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term **without** supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g., December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests (typically scheduled during the last week of the term).

Students should also note that the instructor may **designate** one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Academic consideration requests may be denied when flexibility in assessment has already been included. Examples of flexibility in assessment include when there are assessments not required for calculation of the final grade (e.g. 8 out of 10 quizzes) or there is flexibility in the submission timeframe (e.g. 72 hour no late penalty period).

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course syllabus. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

B. Academic Offenses

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed [here](#) to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

C. Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

D. Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

E. Discovery Credit Statement

Students are permitted to designate up to 1.0 Discovery Credit course (or equivalent) for pass/fail grading that can be counted toward the overall course credits required for their degree program. The details of this policy and the deadlines can be found [here](#).

F. Turnitin and other similarity review software

All assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. Students will be able to view their results before the final submission. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and [Turnitin.com](#).

G. 15% Rule

According to the [Evaluation of Academic Performance](#) policy, at least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. Generally, students can expect some form of feedback on their performance in a course before the drop date. In rare instances, at the Dean's discretion, an exemption can be issued, which also must be noted in the course syllabus. Deans should review exemptions on a course-by-course basis each time an exempted course is offered.

15. BMSUE Academic Policies and Statements

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy (for in-person tests and exams)

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is committed to ensuring that testing and evaluation are undertaken fairly across all our departments and programs. For all tests and exams, it is the policy of the School that any electronic devices, e.g., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glasses, smart watch or iPod are strictly prohibited. These devices **MUST** be left either at home or with the student's bag/jacket at the front of the room and **MUST NOT** be at the test/exam desk or in the individual's pocket. Any student found with one of these prohibited devices will receive a grade of zero on the test or exam. Non-programmable calculators are only allowed when indicated by the instructor. The program is not responsible for stolen/lost or broken devices.

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

Rounding of Marks Statement

Across the Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. **Final grades** on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.45 becomes 74, and 74.50 becomes 75. Marks **WILL NOT** be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g., a 79 will **NOT** be bumped up to an 80, an 84 **WILL NOT** be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for mark "bumping" will be denied.

Statement on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Platforms

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. **It is important to note that AI can make frequent errors when it comes to the type of advanced biochemical content found in this course.** If you consult AI for information make sure you think critically about the response you get, especially if the AI answer deviates from the course content. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments and/or lab reports should reflect the students' own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

NOTE: Students must indicate if and how generative AI was used for any work that they submit in this course. If AI is used for preparation of an assessment it must be clearly and comprehensively stated how the AI resource was used. For the assignments this AI statement should be made in a references section. This reference section should list what prompts were given to the AI and what AI platform was used.

In the end students are responsible for all content they submit for marking, including any false/erroneous responses produced by AI tools.

16. Support Services

- Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @Western Health <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
- To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.
- Other important links:
 - [Academic Advising \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)
 - [Appeal Procedures](#)
 - [Registrarial Services](#)
 - [Student Development Services](#)
 - [Student Health Services](#)

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.