

Biochemistry 2280A Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Course Outline for Fall 2026

Students who are in emotional and/or mental distress should refer to <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

The Department of Biochemistry recognizes and values equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) principles across all aspects of its functioning. We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity and provides equitable outcomes for our students, post-doctoral scholars, staff, and faculty. We are also committed to promoting decolonization (D) within our teaching. More info about EDID in the Biochemistry Dept. can be found on our EDID website:
https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/biochem/about_us/equity_diversity_and_inclusion.html

This course takes place at Western University, which is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, and Lūnaapéewak. These lands are connected with the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum between the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee and the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796.

1. Technical Requirements:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer

2. Important Dates:

Classes Begin	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 9	October 10-18	December 9	December 10	December 11–22

September 17, 2026: Last day to add or drop a Fall 12-week course

September 30, 2026: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation; non-instructional day

November 30, 2026: Last day to withdraw from a Fall 12-week course without academic penalty

3. Contact Information

Instructors	Topics	Office Hours**	Office Hour Dates
Dr. James Choy (he/him)	1-5	Thu 3:00-4:30 pm Zoom or MSB 302	Sept 17 – Oct 29
Dr. Derek McLachlin* (he/him)	6-16	Tue 2:00-4:00 pm Zoom or MSB 349	Oct 6 to final exam
Dr. Ilka Heinemann (she/her)	17-23	Fri 12:30-2:00 pm Zoom or MSB 358	Nov 20 to final exam

* Course coordinator

** See Zoom links on the OWL site. Zoom sessions may be closed early if no students are present. Students do not need to provide advance notice to attend office hours. Instructors may hold office hours with groups of students, rather than dealing with one student at a time.

Rather than email instructors directly about course content, students should post questions to the Discussions area on the OWL site. In addition, students may email Lian Gai (she/her, a graduate teaching assistant, lgai@uwo.ca) for individual appointments.

Ms. Neiven Timothaws (she/her) handles course administration, and should be contacted about makeup tests.

Email: Neiven.timothaws@schulich.uwo.ca
Office: MSB 342

Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 86850
Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

4. Course Description and Design

Delivery Mode: In-person

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.

Prerequisite(s): Biology 1001A and Biology 1002B; (Chemistry 1301A/B and Chemistry 1302A/B) or (Chemistry 1302A/B and registration in a Biomedical Engineering Program). 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 in it, 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.

Timetabled Sessions

Lecture Section	Date(s)	Time	Location
001	Mon Wed Fri	2:30 – 3:30 pm	
002	Mon Wed	11:30 am – 12:30 pm	
002	Thu	1:30 – 2:30 pm	

- ☒ An audio recording will be provided of the sessions
- ☒ Automated closed captioning will be provided on audio recordings

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 through [OWL Help](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted 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; 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:

- Demonstrate basic knowledge about the structure, roles, and functions of the different classes of biomolecules.
- Provide examples where defects in biochemical processes result in disease, and predict potential outcomes of biochemical defects.
- Describe the central pathways that provide living organisms with energy, and the regulation of these pathways.
- Detail information flow in living systems and mechanisms that regulate the expression of genetic material.
- Formulate an approach to clone and express a gene of interest in bacteria.
- Creatively communicate scientific information.
- Reflect on the nature of science and the identities of scientists.

6. Course Content and Schedule

The schedule is subject to change.

Dates	Topics	Instructor
Sept 9–28	1. Fundamental concepts of biochemistry 2. Amino acids and ionization* 3. Protein structure and analysis 4. Protein function 5. Enzyme catalysis	Choy
Sept 30	No class – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	
Oct 1–9	6. Lipids and biological membranes* 7. Carbohydrate structure* 8. Fundamental concepts in metabolism*	McLachlin
Oct 10–18	No class – Reading Week	
Oct 19–Nov 2	9. Carbohydrate metabolism 10. Citric acid cycle* 11. Oxidative phosphorylation 12. Lipid metabolism 13. Summary of energy metabolism*	McLachlin
Nov 4–6	14. Nucleic acid structure* 15. DNA replication	McLachlin
Nov 7, 2-5 pm	Midterm test , Topics 1-13, rooms will be posted to OWL	
Nov 9–11	15. DNA replication 16. DNA damage and repair	McLachlin
Nov 12–Dec 7	17. Molecular basis of cancer 18. Bacterial transcription 19. Eukaryotic transcription 20. RNA processing 21. Translation 22. Recombinant DNA technology 23. Genome sequencing	Heinemann

* Short videos are assigned for students to watch before these topics begin.

7. Assessment and Evaluation

Due dates for each assessment are as follows. Note that the creative communication assignment and reflections have multiple components, each with its own due date.

Assessment	Format	Default Value (%)	Due Date
Background quiz	Multiple-choice	2	Fri Sep 18
Quiz 1 (Topics 1-4)	Multiple-choice	2*	Mon Sep 28
Quiz 2 (Topics 5-7)	Multiple-choice	2*	Wed Oct 21
Quiz 3 (Topics 8-11)	Multiple-choice	2*	Mon Nov 2
Quiz 4 (Topics 14-16)	Multiple-choice	2*	Mon Nov 16
Quiz 5 (Topics 17-19)	Multiple-choice	2*	Mon Nov 30
Quiz 6 (Topics 20-21)	Multiple-choice	2*	Mon Dec 7
Creative Communication Assignment			
Submission	See assignment	7	Mon Oct 26
Peer assessment – songs	See assignment	0.5	Mon Nov 16
Peer assessment – cartoons	See assignment	0.5	Mon Nov 16
Reflections			
Scientist #1	Written	1	Fri Sep 25
Scientist #2	Written	1	Fri Oct 9
Scientist #3 OR Reflection on science	Written	1	Fri Nov 20
Final reflection	Written	1	Fri Nov 27
Midterm test (Topics 1-13)	Multiple-choice**	36	Sat Nov 7
Final Exam (Topics 14-23)	Multiple-choice**	42	To be determined

* Only the best 4 of the 6 quiz marks will be counted toward your final grade.

** A small number of short-answer questions may be included.

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:

- Midterm test, November 7

Your grade in this course will be the highest of the grades calculated according to the 8 weighting schemes in the table below (all numbers are percent of your overall grade).

Assessment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Background quiz	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0
Best 4 of 6 quizzes	8	8	8	8	0	0	0	0
Creative Communication Assignment	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Reflections	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Midterm test (Topics 1-13)	36	42	37	43	40	46	41	47
Final Exam (Topics 14-23)	42	36	43	37	46	40	47	41

Information about flexibility in assessment

- ☒ Flexibility in assessment has been applied to this course; therefore, academic consideration requests may be denied on the assessments where flexibility is included
- ☒ Only 4 of the 6 quizzes will be counted toward your final grade. Academic consideration will not be granted for missed quizzes. Students will receive a grade of zero for any missed quizzes within the required 4 quizzes.
- ☒ Each student's final mark will be the highest mark obtained from the 8 possible weighting schemes shown above.
- ☒ This course employs flexible deadlines for all assessments except the midterm test and final exam. Assessment deadlines can be found in the table above. Students are expected to submit their work by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their work up to 48 hours past the deadline without a late penalty. Work

will not be accepted more than 48 hours after the deadline; if work is not submitted by that time, then the student will receive zero on the assessment. Requests for academic consideration supported by documentation must be submitted within 48 hours of the original deadline. The instructor reserves the right to deny such academic considerations, given the deadline 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 assessments are due at 11:59 pm Eastern Time unless otherwise specified
- ☒ Students are responsible for ensuring that the correct file version is uploaded; incorrect submissions including corrupt files could be given zero
- ☒ The assignment and reflections will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- ☒ Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin
- ☒ A rubric will be used to evaluate the assignment and will be posted with the instructions
- ☒ A student might not receive the same grade as their group members if it is determined that the distribution of work was not equal
- ☒ After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days
- ☒ Assessment re-grading could result in the mark increasing, decreasing, or remaining the same
- ☒ Prior to the filing of a written request for relief, students must attempt to resolve the concern regarding a mark or grade through informal consultation with the instructor. If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the instructor or does not receive a decision from the instructor, a written request for relief must be submitted to the Department Chair within three (3) weeks from the date that the mark was issued.
- ☒ Fifteen percent of your course grade will be evaluated and returned 3 days prior to the drop deadline (see Evaluation of Academic Performance policy below).

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

Background Quiz – The background quiz consists of questions designed to refresh your memory about key concepts relevant to biochemistry that should have been covered in first-year Biology and Chemistry. The quiz will be available on OWL before the first day of classes. You can repeat the quiz as many times as you like before the deadline; only your best score will be counted.

Quizzes 1-6 – These quizzes will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions, and are intended to encourage students to keep up with the material throughout the term. The quizzes will be administered through the OWL Quizzes tool. The quizzes will be available 72 hours before they are due. Once started, students will have 25 minutes to do each quiz. The quizzes are linear, meaning that after you have answered a question, you will not be able to return to it. Practice questions will be available for each topic, also through the Quizzes tool.

Creative Communication Assignment – Working alone or in teams of up to 3, students will write a song parody or create a cartoon on a biochemistry-related topic. Students choose their own teams. Detailed instructions, including marking rubrics and details of peer assessment, are provided on OWL.

Reflections – To encourage students to reflect on the types of people who do science, and the nature of science itself, you will write 4 short reflections: 3 reflections based on information provided about individual scientists or science as a way of knowing, and a final reflection. Detailed instructions are provided on OWL. Reflections are due throughout the term.

Test and exam – The 3-hour midterm test will cover Topics 1-13 and will be held Saturday, November 7 starting at 2:00 pm. The 3-hour final exam will cover Topics 14-23 and will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Students should not make travel commitments before verifying when the final examination will be held through the Registrar's Office.

Students must provide their own pencils and erasers for the examinations and they **MUST bring their Student ID card**. Students are not permitted to have electronic devices, including (but not limited to) calculators, cell phones, "smart" watches, or smart glasses on their person during exams.

Biochemistry 2280A exams include multiple-choice questions completed on bubble sheets. This course may use software that will detect unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Students should note that discrepancies between answers circled on their exam and those recorded on their bubble sheets will not be adjusted.

Information about late or missed assessments:

- ☒ Work will not be accepted more than 48 hours after the deadline. Missed quizzes, assignments, and reflections will receive a mark of zero without academic consideration.
- ☒ Note that the alternate weighting schemes allow transfer of the weight of missed quizzes to the midterm test and final exam.
- ☒ One make-up midterm test will be offered on **Thursday, November 12, 7:00 – 10:00 pm**. Students who miss both the regular midterm and the make-up (with academic consideration) will write a comprehensive final examination (Topics 1-23) worth the combined weight of the midterm and final exam. Students wanting to write the comprehensive final exam must obtain academic consideration at least 2 weeks before the date of the exam.
- ☒ Only one special examination (see below) will be offered in January.

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, which could impact program progression. 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 for the final exam, the student will write the exam the next time the course is offered, which could impact program progression. Outstanding SPCs will reduce the course load for the term the exam is deferred as outlined in [Definitions of Types of Examinations](#) policy. If a student misses an SPC exam and is approved for academic consideration, they will be withdrawn from the course without academic penalty. If a student misses an SPC exam and is not approved for academic consideration, they will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

8. Communication

- ☒ Announcements related to the course will be communicated through OWL or using a student's Western University email address
- ☒ Students should check the OWL site every 24–48 hours

- ☒ Non-personal, course-related questions should be posted to the Discussions area on OWL so that everyone can access the questions and answers. Students may post anonymously.
- ☒ OWL Discussions will be monitored regularly; students will receive a response within 2 business days.
- ☒ For personal or confidential matters, students should email Ms. Timothaws or Dr. McLachlin directly.

9. Office Hours

- ☒ Office hours will be held as indicated in section 3 on the first page of this outline.

10. Course Materials

- ☒ All resources will be posted on OWL.
- ☒ Required textbook: Essential Biochemistry, Fifth Edition by Charlotte Pratt and Kathleen Cornely, published by Wiley, Inc. This book is available as a 180-day online rental (\$89.00), or as a looseleaf book with 180-day online access (\$141.78); to purchase either, inquire at the campus bookstore. Refer to the OWL site for suggested readings for each topic. Older editions may be adequate.
- ☒ Course notes for each topic as well as recorded lectures and interactive online modules are available on OWL. **To access the material on OWL, you must achieve a perfect score (12/12) on an OWL quiz relating to this syllabus.** This quiz does not count toward your mark, and you can repeat it as many times as necessary.

11. 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/upload (e.g., Course Hero, Chegg, ChatGPT, 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).

12. 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. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule your time throughout the course.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes in a Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for

study and peer support.

6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the OWL Discussion boards, attend instructor office hours, ask a question after class, or contact the teaching assistant.
7. Check out <https://www.learningscientists.org/> for evidence-based study methods.
8. Watch these videos on how to write multiple choice tests:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z3Ybcxd_KY&list=PLVnnSRHuCkfUOIYVbXi8ECsp6zRN9bh8w&index=2
9. See the How to Succeed area of the OWL site.
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.

13. Western Academic Policies/Procedures and Statements

A. Absence from Course Commitments

Medical, Compassionate, or Extenuating Circumstances

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate, or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the [Student Absence 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.

Policy: [Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Procedures: [Student Medical Certificate](#)

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.

Policy: [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#)

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.

Policy: [Definitions of Types of Examinations](#)

B. Academic Appeals and Scholastic Offenses

Students can file a **request for relief from academic decisions** if the request is based on one or more grounds listed in the policy. Requests for relief generally fall into three categories, which are also listed in the policy. All requests for relief must be supported by evidence. A request for relief from academic decisions process was formally referred to as an appeal. Refer to the policy and procedures about further details and timelines.

Policy: [Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions](#)

Procedures: [Undergraduate Student Academic Requests for Relief](#)

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a scholastic offence.

Policy: [Scholastic Offences](#)

Procedures: [Undergraduate Scholastic Offences](#)

Students may **appeal** some academic and scholastic disciplinary decisions by a Dean or their designate, to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA).

Policy: [Senate Review Board Academic Appeals](#)

Procedures: [Senate Review Board Academic Appeals](#)

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.

Policy: [Academic 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.

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.

Policy: [Undergraduate Course Credit](#)

Procedures: [Discovery Credits](#)

F. Statement on the Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices of any kind, including calculators, may be used on the midterm test or final exam.

G. Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Use of AI tools is not forbidden in this course, except that students may not use generative AI when writing the reflections. The reflections are supposed to represent your personal thoughts, which by definition cannot be generated by generative AI tools. We strongly discourage use of AI tools when completing the quizzes. The quizzes are primarily intended as formative assessments to help you assess your own understanding while preparing for the midterm test or final exam.

If you choose to use AI tools for the creative communication assignment, keep in mind that information produced by such tools is necessarily limited by the data used to train the software. Therefore, AI tools may produce inaccurate, biased, or constrained output. Despite continuous improvements, such tools are notoriously prone to confidently making illogical or factually incorrect statements. Therefore, you should always critically evaluate AI output and exercise independent thinking when doing academic work.

For the assignment, you must include a statement describing whether and how generative AI contributed to the finished product.

Ultimately, students are responsible for the work they submit, including any false, biased, plagiarized, or otherwise inappropriate content produced by AI tools. Using generative AI tools outside the terms communicated in this syllabus will be considered a scholastic offense.

Generative AI tools have been used to create ideas for multiple-choice questions used in this course. Otherwise, AI tools were not used in the creation of course content. AI software may be used to group responses to short-answer test questions, but otherwise will not be used during assessment of student work.

H. Turnitin and other similarity review software

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. 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](https://www.turnitin.com).

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.

I. 15% Rule

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.

Policy: [Evaluation of Academic Performance](#)

14. BMSUE Academic Policies and Statements

A. 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 and this will be documented as a Scholastic Offence. Non-programmable calculators are only allowed when indicated by the instructor. The program is not responsible for stolen/lost or broken devices.

B. Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course materials produced by faculty are 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.

C. 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** in this course are rounded to the nearest whole number based on the first decimal place. For example, a grade of 74.49 or lower will be rounded to 74, whereas 74.50 or higher will be rounded to 75.

Marks **WILL NOT** be arbitrarily increased to the next grade or GPA, e.g., a 79 will **NOT** be increased to an 80, and 84 **WILL NOT** be increased to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for arbitrary mark increasing will be denied. Marks will be assigned based on assessments in the syllabus and no extra work or tasks will be assigned to increase a mark.

Course grade rounding provisions, as described above, differ from cumulative and term averages. Cumulative and term averages will be calculated to two decimal places and rounded to the nearest whole number with .45 rounded up, for the purposes of admission to and progression in modules, scholarship retention, and Dean's Honour List.

Policy: [Marks/Grades; Definitions of Grades; Grading Scale for Undergraduate Students](#)

15. Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @Western <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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 the following website:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/get-help.html>

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Other important links:

- [Academic Advising \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)
- [Learning Development and Success](#)
- [Office of the Registrar](#)
- [Wellness & Wellbeing](#)
- [Western USC Services](#)

Appendix 1: Western University Academic Policies and Procedures

The policies and procedures listed in this syllabus are outlined in the table below. In some cases, a policy does not include an accompanied procedures document.

Academic Policy	Name of Policy/Procedure	Links
General Policy	Marks/Grades; Definitions of Grades; Grading Scale for Undergraduate Students	Policy
General Policy	Structure of the Academic Year	Policy
Registration, Progression, Graduation	Course Numbering Policy, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction	Policy
Registration, Progression, Graduation	Undergraduate Course Credit	Policy • Procedures
Examinations	Definitions of Types of Examinations	Policy
Examinations	Evaluation of Academic Performance	Policy
Examinations	Examination Conflicts	Policy
Rights and Responsibilities	Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities	Policy
Rights and Responsibilities	Accommodation for Religious Holidays	Policy
Rights and Responsibilities	Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs	Policy • Procedures
Rights and Responsibilities	Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions (Undergraduate)	Policy • Procedures
Rights and Responsibilities	Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions (Graduate)	Policy • Procedures
Rights and Responsibilities	Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate)	Policy • Procedures
Rights and Responsibilities	Senate Review Board Academic Appeals	Policy • Procedures