

BIOL 313: Molecular Biology and Recombinant DNA Technology

This course is specifically designed for students who have limited knowledge in molecular biology and biotechnology. The course will develop and equip students with a strong foundation in molecular biology, genomics, and molecular bioengineering in a changing world of biotechnology. It focuses on: 1) fundamental principles of molecular biology and genomics; and, 2) application of recombinant DNA technologies in gene therapy, vaccine development as well as genetically modified agricultural products. Topics covered will include: basic structure and organization of the prokaryotic and eukaryotic genome; mechanisms of DNA replication; gene transcription and protein translation; chromatin structure and function; post-translational regulation; epigenetics; DNA-protein interaction dynamics, and regulation of gene expression by different types of RNA. Faculty will present real-life examples to explain how gene cloning, plasmid construction, site-directed mutagenesis, DNA sequencing, genome editing, gene-expression profiling, are conducted in order to solve biological problems. At the end of this course, students will gain an understanding of how life works at the molecular level and gain knowledge of cutting-edge biotechnological application in research, medicine, and industry.

Learning Objectives

- Gain basic molecular biology knowledge of how genetic material (DNA and RNA) is the key to our survival and function and how this information is transferred over generations
- Understand how changes in this basic information encoded by the genetic material lead to changes in biological characteristics
- Master and use the most advanced tools and experimental techniques to study cell and molecular biology
- Describe how recombinant DNA techniques are used in modern applications in the lab or industry to develop cures for diseases and biotechnological advancements that affect daily life

Credits: 2

Class Type: Graduate Course

Program: Biology, Genetics, and Medicine