



**Subject:** Junior BME student, Chemistry concentration

I chose U-M for its BME program, but I didn't have as good an understanding of BME as I did bioengineering when I applied. My understanding of BME has improved more through my work with grad students and postdocs in a research lab than through my coursework.

There's not as much biology coursework as I would have thought; the curriculum only requires 1 biology course and 1 biochemistry course. I would have taken a genetics or biology course outside of the curriculum. The curriculum is saturated with other topics (e.g. chemistry, physics, circuits).

I'm curious about BIOMEDE 350 because it has design and analysis components, but BIOCHEM 415 taught material closest to what I wanted to learn even though it's not a BME class. There are many good classes in the BME curriculum, but they don't cover the material that I really want to learn. In general, I'm not a fan of EECS and mechanical engineering courses. I'd be willing to look outside of the BME Department for more biology courses like tissue engineering and stem cell regeneration. My favorite professor is Joan Greve - she has good energy, attention to detail, and works well with students.

I think that there's a good balance between labwork and coursework in the Sophomore curriculum; there is at least 1 lab course per semester. However, I wish that there would be more labs that focused on teaching lab skills such as NGS, soft lithography, microfluidics, and data analysis for genetics datasets. In a 1 credit skills-based course, I would like to learn basic cell culture, Western Blots, fluorescence staining, DNA extraction, and gel electrophoresis.

I had a good life-work balance by participating in many extracurricular activities and socializing with my roommates.

After undergrad, I want to get a PhD and become a professor. Research has had the biggest impact on my future goals; in fact, the UROP program is one of the main reasons why I chose the U-M BME program. I've also recommended the program to prospective students from my high school.