

10/10/2023

## FAQS

Q: What marketable skills will this program offer, and does the program offer any connections to any Biotechnology and/or Pharmaceutical companies?

A: The ACC courses provide marketable skills in quality assurance (BITC1340), as well as hands on skills in biomanufacturing (BITC 1491), cell culture (BITC2431), instrumentation (BITC 2411), cell culture (BITC 2431), and molecular techniques (BITC 2441) that are all skills needed in biotech/biopharma companies. There are many opportunities for internships and connections to companies.

Q: I would like to know more about the graduates of this program who have gone on to get placed in a newer, startup biotechnology companies and what are their typical duties and responsibilities? I also like to know: Can we (aspiring students) customize our learning at all, or is every class very structured? Will there be opportunities to conduct our own research? What do our professors specialize in? How was the content for this program selected?

A: We have had students go on to ThermoFisher, Agilent, ELLAB, AustinPx, Molecular Templates, etc.. The program has been producing graduates who have become employees for over 20 years. The placement rate is 100%. The introductory classes have a specific curriculum, but the advanced classes have an independent research component and biomanufacturing is run like a company so a student is expected to customize their learning. The content for biomanufacturing is taken from the latest in current innovation and research. Dr. Tchedre who teaches biomanufacturing specializes in current research and biomanufacturing skills and placement. He has a Ph.D and MBA and was responsible for setting up R &D and biomanufacturing facilities for the industry across Europe.

Q: How well do the skills learned and acquired in this certificate apply to what the current biotech and molecular biology industries are seeking in the workforce?

A: ACC Biotech skill standards are created and endorsed by biotech companies and are continually updated to meet the needs of industry.

Q: Approximately how many months will it require to complete the biotechnology certificate?

A: The ACC Level 1 certificate requires 4 classes. See link for ACC courses:  
<https://utexas.box.com/s/7wtpnbky0t2prbink6izt1ai9mevow4f>

Q: Are there any resources available through this program to connect with potential biotechnology companies?

A: ACC has an internship class and an internship coordinator so you will have help communicating and applying for biotech jobs.

Will this certificate count towards my degree requirements (in terms of hours) for UT?

A: Up to 7 hrs of generic biology hours can transfer back to UT as electives.

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How could this program help me advance my biology knowledge and career?

A: The ACC biotech program is primarily a laboratory based, hands on program. It will help students to understand the practical side of biological systems, assay development, and how innovation is applied.

Is it possible to do classes for this program in the summer, along with an internship?

A: It depends on the number of hours an internship requires.

What are resources in the program I could use to develop my resume and make myself a more competitive applicant?

A: Every class in the ACC biotech program helps students work on their resume, create their online profile, and works with students to evaluate their skills.

Q: Does the certificated program approve in all states of the US?

A: There is no national certification program; however, there are credentialing organizations that ACC works with and can provide certification standards based on industry recommendations.

Q: I would like to know if the skills that are trained here are something that employers are looking for and which skills specifically are taught. Also, since I am partial to Microbiology, I'm curious to know if any special Microscopy training will be provided.

A: ACC is in constant communication with industry partners locally and nationally to provide the skills needed for biotech employers. Currently there is no specific microscopy training.

Q: Would it be possible to just take three course - BITC 1340, BITC 2431, and BITC 1491?

A: Yes, you may take as many or as few courses as needed. However, to earn the Level 1 certificate you will need to take place out exams for BIOL 1414 and 1415.