

Rotations Fall 2018

Each student is required to rotate through three labs during his/her first year. Rotations provide the student a good idea about the research that is performed in the laboratory as well as a sense of how a laboratory is run by an individual faculty member. Students are encouraged to rotate in labs of the CORE faculty members. These faculty members support the teaching and research mission of the Biochemistry program. If you want to rotate in an outside lab, please briefly discuss your choice with the DGS (Charles Dann III) prior to formalizing the rotation. Students need only to decide on the first rotation now, and we will make Friday afternoon (August 17, 2018) available for students to meet one-on-one with faculty if they have not agreed upon on a first rotation choice.

The rotation schedule for the 2018-19 academic year is as follows:

First rotation:	Wednesday, August 22 – Friday, September 28
Second rotation:	Monday, October 1 – Friday, November 2
Third rotation:	Monday, November 5 – Friday, December 14
Research period in your lab:	Monday, January 7 – Friday, May 3

Beginning your rotations: Attached, you will find a form that asks you to list your top three faculty choices for the first rotation. You must meet with faculty members prior to including them on the list. Charles Dann III will work in conjunction with the PIs you have listed to place you in your first lab rotation. Every effort will be made to place you in your first rotation choice in the first cycle. If scheduling disallows this she will work to get you into that rotation in one of the later cycles. Please return this form to the Biochemistry graduate office as soon as possible, but no later than **12:00 pm on Tuesday, August 21, 2018**. If you need more time, let the graduate office know. It is also OK to submit an incomplete list (two names) if need be.

Rotation Reports: A report is due at the end of each rotation period. Because the first semester rotation periods are very short, the reports will *not* describe laboratory research. Instead, they will comprise a short, synthetic summary that draws from reviews, classic papers in the field and current papers. The target length is 750 words plus a bibliography that includes *at least* two papers in each class cited above. The title and body should be constructed around a specific research question that is being addressed during the rotation, and the report should summarize the project background and describe the work in the context of current research in the field. Be very careful to write in your own voice and avoid plagiarizing the literature you cite (see <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/definition.html> for a definition of plagiarism). Please remember, you must turn in your reports in a timely manner to remain in good standing as a student in the Biochemistry Program. Final grades will represent an average of the grades for each lab rotation.

The first draft is intended for review by the lab PI or senior lab person designated by the PI. After incorporating their comments, the final rotation reports must be sent electronically to the graduate office, e-mail address: bchem@indiana.edu. The hard copy evaluation form (signed by the P.I. with a letter grade) must be handed in to the graduate office SI 003 at the end of your rotation. Failure to provide a rotation report and evaluation form will result in an incomplete grade on your transcript.

August 2018

First Rotation Report Due: Monday, October 1, 2018

Second Rotation Report Due: Monday, November 5, 2018

Third Rotation Report Due: Monday, December 17, 2018 (Early if you are leaving for the holidays)

Second Semester Report: No official report given by student*. Evaluation given to graduate office by PI.

ALL FINAL REPORTS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE LAB PI.

Evaluating the second semester research progress. The second academic semester will be spent in a lab chosen by the student after the first three rotations. However, you will still be enrolled in B580, a course that requires a grade assigned by your mentor. *As of May 2012, the program will no longer *require* a formal research report for this research period. With some students teaching and others focused entirely on research (and everyone in classes), writing an extensive report became an undue burden on many individuals. Each student and mentor should agree upon a formal evaluation mechanism for the student's spring semester performance. For example, students might write a formal research report describing their progress in a format specified by the mentor, or they might present an oral report at a laboratory meeting or departmental talk. In all cases, the student and mentor are expected to have a one-on-one meeting to discuss the student's strengths and weaknesses at the conclusion of the semester. The mentor will fill out an evaluation form similar to the ones used for first semester rotations, assign a grade, and return the graduate office in SI 003. Failure to provide an evaluation form will result in an incomplete grade on your transcript.

A final thought: Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about the intent or details regarding the lab assignments, rotation reports or anything else about the program.

Have fun in the lab!

Charles Dann III