BIOINFORMATICS AND COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY (BCB)

Additional Resources

- Catalog Course Search (https://catalog.unc.edu/course-search/)
- Course Numbering Guide (https://catalog.unc.edu/courses/course-numbering/)
- Scheduled Classes (https://reports.unc.edu/class-search/)
- Historical Course Record (https://reports.unc.edu/historical_course_record/)

Courses

BCB 555. Bioalgorithms. 3 Credits.
Bioinformatics algorithms. Topics include DNA restriction mapping, finding regulatory motifs, genome rearrangements, sequence alignments, gene prediction, graph algorithms, DNA sequencing, protein sequencing, combinatorial pattern matching, approximate pattern matching, clustering and evolution, tree construction, Hidden Markov Models, randomized algorithms.

Rules & Requirements
Requisites: Prerequisites, COMP 210, and 211; or COMP 401, and 410; and MATH 231, or 241; or BIOL 452; or MATH 553; or BIOL 525; a grade of C or better is required in all prerequisite courses.
Grading Status: Letter grade.
Same as: COMP 555.

BCB 645. Quantitative Genetics of Complex Traits. 1 Credits.
Students will learn about various topics that form the basis for understanding quantitative genetics of complex traits with biomedical and agricultural relevance. The ultimate goal of quantitative genetics in this postgenomic era is prediction of phenotype from genotype, namely deducing the molecular basis for genetic trait variation.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.
Same as: GNET 645.

BCB 670. Structural Bioinformatics. 1 Credits.
A combined lecture/computer lab course introducing the methods and principles of biological data management as this relates to macromolecular sequence analysis. Course intended primarily for graduate students.

Rules & Requirements
Requisites: Prerequisites, BIOC 650, 651, and 652; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisites.
Grading Status: Letter grade.
Same as: BIOC 670.

BCB 701. Genome Sciences Seminar Series. 1 Credits.
Open to bioinformatics students only. Diverse but current topics in all aspects of bioinformatics. Relates new techniques and current research of notables in the field of bioinformatics and computational biology.

Rules & Requirements
Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit.
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 702. Genome Sciences Seminar Series. 1 Credits.
Open to bioinformatics students only. Diverse but current topics in all aspects of bioinformatics. Relates new techniques and current research of notables in the field of bioinformatics.

Rules & Requirements
Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit.
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 710. Bioinformatics Colloquium. 1 Credits.
The goal of this course is to expose students to the research interests of BCB faculty and to provide an opportunity for students to present their own work and receive input from their peers and faculty.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 712. Databases, Metadata, Ontologies, and Digital Libraries for Biological Sciences. 1 Credits.
Course introduces the basic information-science methods for storage and retrieval of biological information.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 715. Mathematical and Computational Approaches to Modeling Signaling and Regulatory Pathways. 1 Credits.
The course provides an introduction to the basic mathematical techniques used to develop and analyze models of biochemical networks. Both deterministic and stochastic models are discussed.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 716. Sequence Analysis. 1 Credits.
This module is designed to introduce students to concepts and methods in the comparative analysis of nucleic acid sequences using state of the art sequencing platforms. Course topics will include sequence alignment, genome assembly, and computational details of contemporary protocols for DNA and RNA sequencing.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 717. Structural Bioinformatics. 1 Credits.
Course introduces methods and techniques for protein modeling.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 718. Computational Modeling Laboratory. 1 Credits.
This course provides a practical introduction to computational modeling of cellular systems. We will focus on how to choose and implement different modeling techniques-deterministic, stochastic, and inferred-to describe the same biological phenomenon. Although no formal mathematical or computational background is required, the course will involve a fair amount of programming in MATLAB.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 720. Introduction to Statistical Modeling. 3 Credits.
This course introduces foundational statistical concepts and models that motivate a wide range of analytic methods in bioinformatics, statistical genetics, statistical genomics, and related fields. Students are expected to know single-variable calculus, be familiar with matrix algebra, and have some programming experience.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 722. Population Genetics. 1 Credits.
This short course will cover methods of inferring/estimating natural selection, including the Dn/Ds ratio, the McDonald-Kreitman test, and the Poisson Random Field model. The course will feature discussions of high-profile publications that describe the application of these methods to yield insights into the forces that have shaped organismal evolution.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.
Same as: GNET 722.

BCB 723. Topics in Statistical Genetics and Genomics. 1 Credits.
This module introduces selected concepts and techniques in statistical genetics and genomics.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 724. Data Communication. 1 Credits.
This course is designed to prepare students to be effective communicators of the results of analyses of biological and biomedical data. Students will learn methods for data assessment and exploratory data analysis (EDA), and how to visualize, write, and talk about data in contexts such as emails, reports, lab meetings, publications, and conference presentations. No technical or statistical background required for enrollment.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 725. Introduction to Statistical Genetics. 3 Credits.
Covers statistical methods for the analysis of family and population-based genetic data. Topics include classical linkage analysis, population-based and family-based association analysis, haplotype analysis, genome-wide association studies, basic principles in population genetics, imputation-based analysis, pathway-based analysis, admixture mapping, analysis of copy number variations, and analysis of massively parallel sequencing data.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 730. Fundamentals of Quantitative Image Analysis for Light Microscopy. 1 Credits.
This course is a practical introduction to quantitative analysis of light microscopy images. During the class students will follow tutorials that will guide them through common tasks in analysis of biological images. They will be introduced to basic concepts of image processing like image registration, filtering, object detection etc.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.
Same as: GNET 730.

BCB 731. Critical Readings in Biomedical Statistics and Machine Learning. 2 Credits.
A survey of recurring statistical errors and pitfalls which are sometimes used to exaggerate the weight of evidence for novel biological claims or inflate the estimated accuracy of proposed predictive biomedical models. This course focuses on misapplied analyses of data sources where a small number of biological samples are quantified into very high dimensional feature spaces, such as in genomics, proteomics, and biomedical imaging.

Rules & Requirements
Requisites: Prerequisites, Students should be familiar with both predictive modeling and inferential data analysis (BCB 720 or, eg, BIOS 661, COMP 755, or STOR 665) as well as general awareness of high throughput biological data; Permission of the instructor is required for students lacking the prerequisites.
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 784. Introduction to Computational Biology. 3 Credits.
Molecular biology, sequence alignment, sequence motifs identification by Monte Carlo Bayesian approaches, dynamic programming, hidden Markov models, computational algorithms, statistical software, high-throughput sequencing data and its application in computational biology.

Rules & Requirements
Requisites: Prerequisites, BIOS 661 and 663; Permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisites.
Grading Status: Letter grade.
Same as: BIOS 784.

BCB 785. Statistical Methods for Gene Expression Analysis. 3 Credits.
Clustering algorithms, classification techniques, statistical techniques for analyzing multivariate data, analysis of high dimensional data, parametric and semiparametric models for DNA microarray data, measurement error models, Bayesian methods, statistical software, sample size determination in microarray studies, applications to cancer.

Rules & Requirements
Requisites: Prerequisites, BIOS 661 or 673, and 663; Permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisites.
Grading Status: Letter grade.
Same as: BIOS 785.

BCB 850. Training in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Teaching. 3 Credits.
Principles of bioinformatic and computational biology pedagogy. Students are responsible for assistance in teaching BCB and work under the supervision of the faculty, with whom they have regular discussion of methods, content, and evaluation of performance.

Rules & Requirements
Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit.
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 870. Writing Fellowship Proposals. 1 Credits.
Provides practical experience to predoctoral students in writing fellowship proposals, using the NIH F31 as a template. Students will have weekly writing assignments, with feedback given by students and faculty. Open to 2nd and 3rd year students in the Curriculum or by permission of the instructor.

Rules & Requirements
Grading Status: Letter grade.
Same as: GNET 870.

BCB 888. Responsible Conduct of Research. 1 Credits.
Classroom-based graduate level course covering critical topics for ethical and responsible conduct of experimental research. There are both classroom lecture, workshop-type discussion components, in addition to assigned outside of class readings. Case studies and hypothetical situations involving the most likely scenarios confronting graduate students will be covered, these topics include: mentor and mentee relationships, publication authorship, collaboration, peer review, conflicts of interest, intellectual property, plagiarism, data acquisition and data processing. Restricted to students in good standing as a graduate student at UNC; In the unlikely event that classroom space is limited, preference will be given to graduate students who have previously received external federal funding sources and may require a refresher course in RCR.

Rules & Requirements
Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit. 2 total credits. 1 total completions.
Grading Status: Letter grade.
Same as: BIOC 888.

BCB 891. Special Topics. 1-3 Credits.
Advance topics in current research in statistics and operations research.

Rules & Requirements
Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics.
Grading Status: Letter grade.
Same as: MATH 891, GNET 891.

BCB 899. Special Topics in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. 1-6 Credits.
Special topics course in the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Curriculum. Topics will vary.

Rules & Requirements
Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit. 9 total credits. 9 total completions.
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 905. Research in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. 1-8 Credits.
Credit awarded to students for research in bioinformatics and computational biology.

Rules & Requirements
Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit.
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 990. Research Practicum/Internship in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. 1-9 Credits.
The Research Practicum/Internship in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (BCB) is a planned, individualized, mentored, evaluated, experiential learning opportunity that serves as a bridge between academic training and post-training practice. The internship/practicum provides special opportunities for learning that are different from, supplementary to, and supportive of the academic components of the PhD program.

Rules & Requirements
Requisites: Prerequisite, None; Corequisite, None; Pre- or corequisite, None.
Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 9 total credits. 9 total completions.
Grading Status: Letter grade.

BCB 992. Master's (Non-Thesis). 3 Credits.
Focuses on the development of a master's project or a major paper other than a thesis.

BCB 993. Master's Research and Thesis. 3 Credits.
Students are not accepted for master's program.

Rules & Requirements
Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit.

BCB 994. Doctoral Research and Dissertation. 3 Credits.
Credit for work done towards doctorate.

Rules & Requirements
Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit.