**BIOINFORMATICS (HBSc)**

*Department of Mathematical & Computational Sciences*

**Bioinformatics** is an interdisciplinary science that combines Biology, Computer Science, Statistics, Mathematics, and Chemistry. Bioinformatics is the management of large amounts of biological information generated from research using advanced computational methods and programs.

The program includes various courses in genetics and molecular biology, which will contextualize genomic data and explain how it is isolated, sequenced and analyzed. Our computer science courses will give you the foundation to write the computer programs required to analyze large amounts of data.

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**MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT UTM!**

We want to help you maximize your university experience, so we’ve pulled together information and interesting suggestions to get you started, although there are many more! As you review the chart on the inside pages, note that many of the suggestions need not be restricted to the year they are mentioned. In fact, activities such as joining an academic society, engaging with faculty and seeking opportunities to gain experience should occur in each year of your study at UTM. Read through the chart and create your own plan using My Program Plan found at [www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans)

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**Program of Study (POSt)**

- Specialist Program ERSPE1868 Bioinformatics (Science)

**Check out...**

Get excited about disease! Take BIO315H5 and learn about exciting new topics in the structure and function of normal and diseased cells. Topics include intercellular communication, and intracellular trafficking and their underlying roles in the disease process. What is the molecular and genetic basis of cancer building? Take BIO477H5 and examine the role of oncogenes, tumor suppressor genes and cell cycle regulating proteins in the development of cancers.

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**What can I do with my degree?**

The career you choose will depend on your experience and interests. Visit the Career Centre to explore your career options.

**Careers for graduates:** Operations research analyst; Bioinformatics specialist; Epidemiologist; Informationist; Biostatistician; Quality controller; Research technician; Validation specialist; Bioethicist; Geneticist; Pharmacy technician; Data scientist; Computer programmer; Systems analyst.

**Workplaces:** Manufacturing companies; Government; Industrial inspection firms; Scientific R&D; Pharmaceuticals; Hospitals; Computer/software/telecommunication companies.
**BIOINFORMATICS SPECIALIST Program Plan**

### 1st Year


Choose a program of study (Subject POS) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer Planner and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.

**Start strong and get informed with** utmONE and LAUNCH through the Centre for Student Engagement (CSE). Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.

### 2nd Year

**Enrol in courses** BIO206H5, 207H5, CHM242H5, CSC207H5, 236H5, 263H5 and MAT223H5 / 240H5.

Throughout your undergraduate degree:
- Use the Degree Explorer to ensure you complete your degree and program requirements.
- See the Office of the Registrar and the MCS Undergraduate Counsellor for assistance.

**Use the Core-Curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.**

**Attend the Get Experience Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.**

### 3rd Year


Consider applying for Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses BIO399Y, CSC399Y and CSC499Y. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC’s P.A.R.T. to enhance your research skills.

**Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn).**

**Attend the Biology Department’s Biology Seminar Series.**

**Embark on a UTM Abroad Global Impact Project through** the IEC. Take advantage of this opportunity to travel with a faculty member and learn about a topic of interest in a unique location.

**Interested in deepening your global perspective? Register for the Global Citizenship Certificate offered by the IEC.**

### 4th or Final Year

**Enrol in courses** MAT213H5/242H5, 232H5, STA256H5 and 258H5. In this year or the next, enrol in BIO314H5, 372H5, 477H5, CSC312H5/411H5, 343H5, 373H5 and MAT332H5.

**Attend the RGASC’s P.A.R.T. to ensure you complete your degree and program requirements.**

**Explore your interests. Why not pass on your passion for science?** Be a UTM Let’s Talk Science Outreach volunteer to support educators and help youth form positive attitudes towards the role that STEM plays in their lives and futures.

**Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn).**

**Attend the Biology Department’s Biology Seminar Series.**

**weekly seminars featuring exciting guest speakers from across North America.**

**Earn credits overseas! Study for a summer, term or year at one of** 120 universities. The MCS department’s topic pick is Lund University (Sweden). Speak to the IEC for details about Course Based Exchange and funding.

**What’s your next step after undergrad?**

**Entering the workforce? Evaluate your career options through a CC Employment Strategies appointment. Create a job search strategy — look for on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities.**

**Consider further education? Research application requirements, prepare for admission tests (LSAT, MCAT), and research funding options (OGS, SSHRC).**

### HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM PLAN

Read through each year. Investigate what appeals to you here and in any other Program Plans that apply to you.

Visit [www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans) to create your own plan using My Program Plan. Update your plan yearly.

### BUILD SKILLS

**Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the Mathematical and Computational Sciences Society (MCSS). Follow them @utmMCSS.**

Get to know your TA. View the Math Help Room Schedule on the MCS departmental website. Visit the UT Library Reference Desk.

**Attend events held by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student. Explore different cultures through food, music, and sport or through sightseeing around the GTA.**

Start with the International Education Week events and learn about the diversity, culture, and international opportunities on campus!

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### BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET

**Attend the Program Selection & Career Options workshop offered by the Office of the Registrar and the CC.**

Check out Careers by Major at the CC to see potential career options.

### PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE

**Explore careers through the CC’s Extern Job Shadowing Program.**

**Considering further education? Attend the CC’s Graduate and Professional Schools Fair. Talk to professionals — they are potential mentors and references.**

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### PLAN YOUR ACADEMICS*

Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.

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Skills developed in Bioinformatics

To be competitive in the job market, it is essential that you can explain your skills to an employer. Visit the Career Centre to learn how to articulate and market the following skills:

Research: analyze and evaluate information, as well as conduct journal research.

Technical: write, debug, and test programs and research, design and develop computer systems (e.g., new computer languages, simulations, system analysis, etc.)

Problem-solving: conceptualize models; formulate, model, and solve problems from diverse areas; and collect, organize, analyze, and interpret results.

Communication: articulate, explain, and teach technical information to others, as well as question and probe to diagnose computer problems.

Organizational: manage time effectively and organize and maintain data that is stored.

Get involved

Check out the 100+ student organizations on campus. Here are a few:

- Mathematical and Computational Sciences Society (MCS)
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
- UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)

For a listing of clubs on campus visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs.

Department of Mathematical & Computational Sciences

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Services that support you

- Accessibility Services (AS)
- Career Centre (CC)
- Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)
- Experiential Education Unit (EEU)
- Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)
- Indigenous Centre (IC)
- International Education Centre (IEC)
- Office of the Registrar (OR)
- Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre (RAWC)
- Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)
- UTM Library, Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HMALC)

FUTURE STUDENTS

Admission to UTM

All program areas require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, or equivalent, with six Grade 12 U/M courses, or equivalent, including English. The admission average is calculated with English plus the next best five courses. The Grade 12 prerequisites for this program are Advanced Functions, Calculus, Biology and Chemistry. The approximate average required for admission is high-70s. More information is available at utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook.

NOTE: During the application process, applicants will select the Computer Science, Mathematics & Statistics admissions category but will not officially be admitted to a formal program of study (Specialist, Major, and/or Minor) until after first year.

Sneak Peek

What’s in your genes? Take BIO207H5 to find out about the principles of Mendelian inheritance and modern genetics using examples from medical research, evolutionary biology, agriculture and conservation biology. The first two years of the program are an introduction to broadly applicable tools and ideas. You’ll learn computing languages, including Python (CSC108H5) and Java (CSC207H5), and you’ll get a peek at the mathematical techniques (CSC236H5) and data structures (CSC148H5 and CSC263H5) that underpin the discipline.

Student Recruitment
& Admissions

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