The Bioinformatics program in the College of Information Science and Technology (IS&T) specifically equips students with a strong foundation in computer science, scripting/programming, algorithms, database development, data management, and reproducible workflow implementation. In addition, fundamental courses in biology, genetics, molecular biology, chemistry, statistics, and discrete mathematics provide students with the ability to analyze and interpret many different types of data. The program curriculum is designed to meet the current demand for professionals equipped with bioinformatics computing skills. The national demand for bioinformatics professionals exceeds current supply, and individuals with the interdisciplinary training that a bioinformatics degree provides are in high demand.

Graduates of our IS&T Bioinformatics degree program go on to careers in software development and engineering, database development and implementation, and positions in the agricultural sector, among other career pathways; our graduates also pursue graduate research and other professional degrees, including medical school (with the addition of only a few courses). The interdisciplinary nature of our program also allows our graduates to transition easily into informatics-adjacent careers in health informatics, public health, and health information technology. Students also have the opportunity to take up to nine graduate credits toward a College of IS&T Master’s degree in Biomedical Informatics through our Fast Track program.

Program Educational Objectives
The goals of the Bioinformatics program in the College of IS&T are stated as Program Educational Objectives (PEOs) and are based on the needs of the program’s constituencies. PEOs describe the career and professional accomplishments that our program is preparing graduates to achieve.

Graduates of the UNO IS&T Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics program will:

1. Prepare a portfolio demonstrating strong analytic, problem solving, and critical thinking skills.
2. Apply the scientific method to draw evidence-based conclusions in digital health and biosystems-related areas.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in communication of digital health and biosystems-related topics in both written and oral formats.
4. Exhibit commitment to strong ethical and moral standards in the field.
5. Demonstrate professional competency on current real-world digital health and biosystems-related perspectives.
6. Demonstrate ability to design, implement, deliver, and manage technical solutions to digital health and biosystems-related problems.
7. Apply skills such as reading primary literature, developing testable hypotheses, designing experiments, and analyzing algorithms.
8. Demonstrate proficiency in statistical and quantitative methods in the field.

Fast Track
The School of Interdisciplinary Informatics (SI2) has developed a Fast Track program for highly qualified and motivated students providing the opportunity to complete a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in an accelerated time frame. With Fast Track, students may count up to 9 graduate credit hours towards the completion of their undergraduate program as well as the graduate degree program. Students will work with both undergraduate and graduate advisors to ensure graduate classes selected will count toward both programs, should a student wish to earn a graduate degree in a separate College of Information Science & Technology (CIST) area than their undergraduate degree.

Program Specifics:
- This program is available for undergraduate students pursuing any CIST undergraduate degree desiring to pursue an MS in either the same or a related CIST field.
- Students must have completed no less than 60 undergraduate hours.
- Students must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0.
- Students must complete the Fast Track Approval form and obtain all signatures and submit to the Office of Graduate Studies prior to first enrollment in a graduate course.
- Students will work with their undergraduate advisor to register for the graduate courses.
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required for graduate coursework to remain in good standing.
- Students remain undergraduates until they meet all the requirements for the undergraduate degree and are eligible for all rights and privileges granted undergraduate status including financial aid.
- Near the end of the undergraduate program, formal application to the graduate program is required. All applicants will need to meet any other admission requirements established for the MS in selected CIST program. The application fee will be waived if the applicant contacts the Office of Graduate Studies for a fee waiver code prior to submitting the MS application.
- Admission to Fast Track does NOT guarantee admission to the graduate program.
- The admit term must be after the completion term of the undergraduate degree.

Contact
For more information, contact the College of IS&T Academic Advising Office at 402.554.3819.

Website (https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-information-science-and-technology/school-of-interdisciplinary-informatics/bioinformatics/)

Bioinformatics, Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics
Requirements
A minimum of 120 credit hours is required for a Bachelor of Science degree in Bioinformatics. Thirty of the last 36 hours must be University of Nebraska at Omaha courses. Registering for courses without having taken the stated prerequisites could result in administrative withdrawal.

To obtain a Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics, a student must fulfill the University, College and Departmental requirements. Some courses may satisfy requirements in more than one area, but credit is awarded only once, thereby reducing the total number of credit hours for the degree to 120. (This total does not include prerequisites.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1150</td>
<td>ENGLISH COMPOSITION I</td>
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<td>ENGL 1160</td>
<td>ENGLISH COMPOSITION II</td>
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<td>Writing in the Discipline</td>
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<td>CMST 1110</td>
<td>PUBLIC SPEAKING FUNDS</td>
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<tr>
<td>or CMST 2120</td>
<td>ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 1120</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO MATHEMATICAL AND COMPUTATIONAL THINKING</td>
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<tr>
<td>or MATH 1100</td>
<td>DATA LITERACY AND VISUALIZATION</td>
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<td>or MATH 1130</td>
<td>QUANTITATIVE LITERACY</td>
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<td>or MATH 1140</td>
<td>QUANTITATIVE REASONING FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS</td>
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<td>or MATH 1300</td>
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<tr>
<td>or STAT 1100</td>
<td>DATA LITERACY AND VISUALIZATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>or STAT 1530</td>
<td>ELEMENTARY STATISTICS</td>
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**Distribution Requirements** 31
- Natural Science - From two disciplines and at least on lab - 7 hrs
- Social Science - From two disciplines - 9 hrs
- Humanities and Fine Arts - From two disciplines - 9 hrs
- Global Diversity - 3 hrs
- US Diversity - 3 hrs

**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS - 86 Hours Required**

**Course will satisfy UNO’s General Education requirement**

**Course requires pre-requisite(s)**

**All of the Following:** 72

| BIOI 1000 | DIGITAL HEALTH AND BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS (**) |
| CHEM 1140 & CHEM 1144 | FUNDAMENTALS OF COLLEGE CHEMISTRY and FUNDAMENTALS OF COLLEGE CHEMISTRY LABORATORY (**) |
| CIST 1400 | INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE I (*) |
| BIOL 1450 | BIOLOGY I (**) |
| CSCI 1620 | INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE II (*) |
| BIOI 2140 | GENETICS (*) |
| CHEM 2210 & CHEM 2214 | FUNDAMENTALS OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY and FUNDAMENTALS OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABORATORY (*) |
| BIOI 3000 | APPLIED BIOINFORMATICS (*) |
| CIST 3000 | ADVANCED COMPOSITION FOR IS&T (**) |
| BIOL 3020 | MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF THE CELL (*) |
| CIST 3110 | INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ETHICS (**) |
| CSCI 3320 | DATA STRUCTURES (*) |
| CHEM 3650 & CHEM 3654 | FUNDAMENTALS OF BIOCHEMISTRY and FUNDAMENTALS OF BIOCHEMISTRY LABORATORY (*) |
| BIOL 4130 or BIOL 4140 | MOLECULAR GENETICS (*) |
| CSCI 4150 or ISQA 4890 | GRAPH THEORY & APPLICATIONS (*) |
| CSCI 4830 | INTRODUCTION SOFTWARE ENGINEERING (*) |
| CSCI 4850 | DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (*) |
| BIOI 4860 | BIOINFORMATICS ALGORITHMS (*) |
| BIOI 4870 | DATABASE SEARCH AND PATTERN DISCOVERY IN BIOINFORMATICS (*) |
| BIOI 4890 | COMPUTERIZED GENETIC SEQUENCE ANALYSIS (*) |
| BIOI 4970 | SENIOR PROJECT IN BIOINFORMATICS I (*) |
| BIOI 4980 | SENIOR PROJECT IN BIOINFORMATICS II (*) |

**Math Courses - All of the Following:** 14

| MATH 1950 | CALCULUS I (*) |
| CSCI 2030 | MATHEMATICAL FOUNDATIONS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE (*) |
| or MATH 2030 | DISCRETE MATHEMATICS |
| CIST 2500 | INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED STATISTICS FOR IS&T (*) |
| ISQA 4150 | ADVANCED STATISTICAL METHODS FOR IS&T (*) |

**ELECTIVES**

Elective hours as required to reach a total of 120 hours

**Minor Offered:**

- Bioinformatics Minor (http://catalog.unomaha.edu/undergraduate/college-information-science-technology/school-interdisciplinary-informatics-si2/bioinformatic-minor/)

## Bioinformatics, Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics Four Year Plan

### First Year

#### Fall

| ENGL 1150 | ENGLISH COMPOSITION I | 3 |
| BIOI 1000 | DIGITAL HEALTH AND BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS (**) | 3 |
| CIST 1400 | INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE I (*) | 3 |
| MATH 1950 | CALCULUS I (*) | 5 |
| Free Elective | | 1 |
| **Credits** | | 15 |

#### Spring

| BIOL 1450 | BIOLOGY I (**) | 5 |
| MATH 2030 or CSCI 2030 | MATHEMATICAL FOUNDATIONS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE | 3 |
| CSCI 1620 | INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE II (*) | 3 |
| Free Elective | | 3 |
| **Credits** | | 14 |

### Second Year

#### Fall

| ENGL 1160 | ENGLISH COMPOSITION II | 3 |
| BIOI 3000 | APPLIED BIOINFORMATICS (*) | 3 |
| CSCI 3320 | DATA STRUCTURES (*) | 3 |
| CHEM 1140 | FUNDAMENTALS OF COLLEGE CHEMISTRY | 4 |
| CHEM 1144 | FUNDAMENTALS OF COLLEGE CHEMISTRY LABORATORY | 1 |
| **Credits** | | 14 |

#### Spring

| CMST 1110 or CMST 2120 | PUBLIC SPEAKING FUNDS or ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE | 3 |
### University Degree Requirements:
The minimum number of hours for a UNO undergraduate degree is 120 credit hours. Please review the requirements for your specific degree program to determine all requirements for the program. In order to graduate on time (four years for an undergraduate degree), you need to take 30 credit hours each year.

### Placement Exams:
For Math, English, and Foreign Languages, a placement exam may be required. More information on these exams can be found at [https://www.unomaha.edu/enrollment-management/testing-center/placement-exams/information.php](https://www.unomaha.edu/enrollment-management/testing-center/placement-exams/information.php)

Please note that transfer credit or placement exam scores may change a suggested plan of study.

**Overview**
Graduates of UNO’s Bioinformatics (BIOI) program in the College of Information Science & Technology (IS&T) will be able to use their degree to investigate and apply technology to solve bioinformatics problems effectively. Due to a great demand for experts in bioinformatics, the job outlook for those with appropriate training is excellent. The Bioinformatics degree can also serve as a springboard to graduate work or other careers requiring informatics skills coupled with a biological background.

In Nebraska, many current careers in Bioinformatics are classified by the Nebraska Department of Labor as H3 jobs (High Wage, High Skill, High Demand). According to their website, “Occupations are high wage when at least half of their wage measures are at or above the regional average for all occupations. Occupations that require some college, no degree, or a higher level of educational attainment are high skill, as well as occupations that require a high school diploma or equivalent plus long-term on-the-job training, an apprenticeship, or internship/residency. The number of annual openings, net change in employment, and growth rate determine whether an occupation is high demand. An occupation must be High Wage, High Skill, and High Demand to be an H3 occupation.”

Jobs in software development and engineering, biostatistics, and bioinformatics are all currently qualified as H3 jobs in Nebraska. Nationally, the need for people with degrees in Bioinformatics is even more apparent, with institutions such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) integrating bioinformatics skills coupled with a biological background.

Examples of careers for graduates of our undergraduate Bioinformatics degree program include:
- Bioinformatics Specialist
- Statistician/Biostatistician
- Software Application Developer
- Bioinformatics Scientist/Analyst
- Scientific Curator
- Computational Biologist
- Database Programmer
- Database Administrator
- Consultant
- Data Scientist/Wrangler
- Software Engineer
- Research Scientist
- Biotech Entrepreneur

*Classified by the Nebraska Department of Labor as an H3 Career

### Additional Information About this Plan:

This roadmap is a suggested plan of study and does not replace meeting with an advisor. Please note that students may need to adjust the actual sequence of courses based on course availability. Please consult an advisor in your major program for further guidance.

This plan is not a contract and curriculum is subject to change.

### Bioinformatics Curriculum Advisory Committee
The College of IS&T’s Bioinformatics (BIOI) and Biomedical Informatics (BMI) faculty hosts an annual BIOI/BMI Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. The CAC is designed to involve alumni and community.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>FUNDAMENTALS OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 2214</td>
<td>FUNDAMENTALS OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABORATORY</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free Elective</td>
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**Third Year**

**Fall**
- BIOL 3020: MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF THE CELL
- CSCI 4850: DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
- CIST 2500: INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED STATISTICS FOR IS&T

**Social Science Requirement**
- Credits: 3

**Spring**
- CHEM 3650: FUNDAMENTALS OF BIOCHEMISTRY
- CHEM 3654: FUNDAMENTALS OF BIOCHEMISTRY LABORATORY
- BIOI 4890: COMPUTERIZED GENETIC SEQUENCE ANALYSIS
- CSCI 4830: INTRODUCTION SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
- CIST 3110: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ETHICS
- Free Elective

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**
- BIOI 4860: BIOINFORMATICS ALGORITHMS
- BIOI 4970: SENIOR PROJECT IN BIOINFORMATICS I
- ISQA 4150: ADVANCED STATISTICAL METHODS FOR IS&T
- CIST 3000: ADVANCED COMPOSITION FOR IS&T

**Social Sciences/US Diversity Requirement**
- Credits: 3

**Spring**
- BIOI 4870: DATABASE SEARCH AND PATTERN DISCOVERY IN BIOINFORMATICS
- BIOI 4980: SENIOR PROJECT IN BIOINFORMATICS II
- BIOL 4130: MOLECULAR GENETICS
- CSCI 4150: GRAPH THEORY & APPLICATIONS
- Social Sciences/US Diversity Requirement

**Credits**
- Total Credits: 120

1 MATH 1950 - Satisfies General Education Quantitative Literacy requirement
stakeholders from industry, academia, government, and non-profit organizations to aid the BIOI Undergraduate Program Committee (UPC), BMI Graduate Program Committee (GPC), and BMI Doctoral Program Committee (DPC) in decisions regarding curriculum for each committee’s respective program. The CAC’s objectives are:

- To review the program curriculum and provide recommendations on how to develop or change programs to address the needs of students in making them “workforce ready.”
- To discuss opportunities and potential pathways for students to transition into the workforce through formal (internships, apprenticeships) and informal means.
- To provide input to curriculum committees on how to manage or improve student recruitment to our programs.
- To provide input to curriculum committees on how to manage or improve student retention in our programs.
- To support and encourage involvement of the Omaha metropolitan community in our BIOI/BMI programs.

**BIOI 1000 DIGITAL HEALTH AND BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS (3 credits)**

This course is an introduction to how computing and technology can be applied to human health and biological systems in an interdisciplinary setting. Students will learn to discern between computing specializations such as bioinformatics and health informatics. The course will explore the application of computing to health, life sciences, and agriculture in both current and historical contexts, and how these applications impact society. Topics covered include bioinformatics, health informatics, user experience and design, data security and privacy, and more.

**Distribution:** Natural/Physical Science General Education course

**BIOI 2000 FOUNDATIONS OF BIOINFORMATICS (3 credits)**

Bioinformatics is a new scientific discipline that integrates mathematical and computational techniques with biological knowledge to develop and use computational tools to extract, organize and interpret information from genetic sequence data. The field is growing quickly due to rapid advances in sequencing and other biological techniques that allow the genomes of different organisms to be easily sequenced. This course provides an overview of the field and covers the chemical, biological, mathematical and computational foundations of bioinformatics upon which later courses will depend. In addition, it introduces problems of interest to bioinformaticians and the methods and tools used to address them.

**Prerequisite(s):** BIOI 1000 or Biol 1450

**BIOI 3000 APPLIED BIOINFORMATICS (3 credits)**

This course will provide students with the practical skills needed for the analysis of -omics data. Topics covered will include biological databases, molecular biology tools (e.g., primer design, contig assembly), gene prediction and mining, database searches, genome comparison, sequence alignments, phylogenetic inference, gene expression data analyses, functional annotation of protein sequences, protein structure and modeling. Specialized software (e.g., Vector NTI) and widely used web-based computation tools (e.g., Entrez, BLAST, ClustalX, Phylip, PyMOL, and SwissPDBviewer) will be illustrated. Multiple approaches for solving particular problems will be presented.

**Prerequisite(s):** BIOI 2000 and CIST 1400; or permission of instructor.

**BIOI 3500 ADVANCED BIOINFORMATICS PROGRAMMING (3 credits)**

Because of the volume and complexity of biological data, advanced programming skills are required for researchers in order to get the most out of their data analyses. This course will provide the expanded programming skills necessary to develop software that can exploit the complex information landscape of bioinformatics. Specific topics covered will include molecular biology basics, Unix/Linux shell programming, Perl and BioPerl, databases and using the Perl DBI, and data visualization.

**Prerequisite(s):** BIOI 3000 and CSCI 1620; or permission of instructor.

**CSCI 3320 is strongly recommended but not required.**

**BIOI 4500 INDEPENDENT STUDY (1-3 credits)**

This course allows students to research a topic of their interest that is not available in a formal course. The topic to be studied must be agreed upon by the student and the instructor.

**Prerequisite(s):** Junior or Senior within the Bioinformatics undergraduate program. Not open to non-degree graduate students.

**BIOI 4510 BIOINFORMATIC INTERNSHIP (1-3 credits)**

The purpose of this course is to provide the students with an opportunity for practical application and further development of knowledge and skills acquired in the Bioinformatics undergraduate program. The internship gives students professional work experience and exposure to the challenges and opportunities faced by IT professionals in the workplace.

**Prerequisite(s):** Junior/Senior standing and permission of Director of the School of Interdisciplinary Informatics. Not open to non-degree graduate students.

**BIOI 4860 BIOINFORMATIC ALGORITHMS (3 credits)**

The main objective of this course is to provide an organized forum for students to understand the foundations of algorithmic design and analysis in the context of health and biological data. The course will present fundamental concepts in algorithms (exhaustive, greedy, graph, heuristic, and more) and explore how those concepts extend to bioinformatics and related fields, such as biomedical informatics, and health informatics. Students will learn about historical context of these algorithms and how they were pivotal in forming more complex modern approaches, and will explore advanced algorithms in their area of interest. Students will also exercise their programming skills with the opportunity to implement and apply bioinformatics algorithms to real data, so to better grasp the technical components of algorithmic design and analysis. (Cross-listed with BMI 8866).

**Prerequisite(s):** CSCI 3320 or permission of instructor. Prior completion of CSCI 4850 is strongly recommended but not required.

**BIOI 4870 DATABASE SEARCH AND PATTERN DISCOVERY IN BIOINFORMATICS (3 credits)**

This required course for undergraduate bioinformatics majors provides foundational knowledge on database aspects used in the field and an overview of their applications in bioinformatics, biomedical informatics, and health/clinical informatics. The course begins with a brief review of key concepts in computational molecular biology related to database search/development, database management systems, the difference between primary and secondary databases, and bioinformatics-related aspects of modeling and theory in computer science. The major focus is on the multiple challenges and aspects of bio-database development, search, and pattern discovery. The course uses problem-based learning to help students develop database management skills as they apply to high throughput “omics” data, the basics of data management, data provenance and governance, standards, and analysis through KDD-based workflows. This course will also consider the fundamentals of artificial intelligence and machine learning as they pertain to bioinformatics, from the perspective of database storage, I/O, and analysis. (Cross-listed with CSCI 8876).

**Prerequisite(s):** CSCI 4850 or permission of instructor. Not open to non-degree graduate students.

**BIOI 4890 COMPUTERIZED GENETIC SEQUENCE ANALYSIS (3 credits)**

The goal of this course is to introduce students to major topics in computerized analysis of genetic sequences. In particular the course will allow students to become familiar with the computational tools and software that aid in the modern molecular biology experiments and analysis of experimental results. Following the completion of this course, it is expected that the students will have a basic understanding of the theoretical foundations of the sequence analysis tools and develop competence in evaluating the output from these tools in a biological context. This course will emphasize hands-on experience with the programs for nucleotide and amino acid sequence analysis and molecular phylogeny. (Cross-listed with BMI 8896).

**Prerequisite(s):** Junior or senior-level standing in the Bioinformatics program or permission from the instructor.
**BIOI 4950 SPECIAL TOPICS IN BIOINFORMATICS (3 credits)**
This course is intended to provide a mechanism for offering instruction in subject areas that are not covered in other regularly scheduled courses. In general, courses offered under the BIOI 4950 designation will focus on evolving subject areas in bioinformatics.

**Prerequisite(s):** Prerequisites of a specific offering of BIOI 4950 will be determined by the supervising faculty member and identified in the course proposal. It is anticipated that permission of the faculty member teaching the course will be required for registration.

**BIOI 4970 SENIOR PROJECT IN BIOINFORMATICS I (1 credit)**
This course is the first part of a two-part series that allows students to work on a guided research project on a specific topic in bioinformatics. The goal of this course is for the student to decide on a research topic and to write a detailed proposal based on this topic that outlines the goals and objectives of the proposed research. The topic and proposal will be approved by the supervising faculty member.

**Prerequisite(s):** BIOI 4860 and BIOI 4870; BIOI 4860 or BIOI 4870 can be taken concurrently. Senior level status in the Bioinformatics program. Not open to non-degree students.

**BIOI 4980 SENIOR PROJECT IN BIOINFORMATICS II (2 credits)**
This course is the second part of a two-part series that allows the student to work on a guided research project on a specific topic in bioinformatics. The goal of this course is for the student to perform the research proposed in Part I of the course and to present the results of his or her work. Presentations will be made in the form of a report, written as a scientific research paper, and an oral defense.

**Prerequisite(s):** Junior or senior-level standing in the Bioinformatics program or permission from the instructor.