COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 33938
Name: Biochemistry II
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1205 - Degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics	Facultat de Farmàcia i Ciències de l'alimentació	2	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1205 - Degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics	Biochemistry	BASIC

COORDINATION

ANIENTO COMPANY FERNANDO

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SUMMARY

Biochemistry II is a second-year (first semester) basic subject of the Degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics (Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences, University of Valencia). This subject accounts for a total of 6 ECTS in the curriculum.

The aim of the course is to deepen the knowledge of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The course is focused on providing a deeper and integrated insight of the intermediary metabolism and the fundamental characteristics of the molecular mechanisms involved in the transmission of genetic information.

Part I. Intermediary metabolism. Pentose phosphate pathway. Gluconeogenesis. Glycogen metabolism. Metabolism of lípids, amino acids and nucleotides. Coordinate regulation of intermediate metabolism. Interdependence of the major organs in fuel metabolism. Main processes of fuel storage, mobilization and use during different physiological situations.

Part II. Structure and function of nucleic acids. Structure of nucleic acids. Genes and chromosomes. Denaturation and renaturation of nucleic acids. Replication, repair and recombination of DNA. Transcription and RNA maturation. Translation, protein maturation and posttranslational protein transport. Regulation of

gene expression. Methods in molecular biology.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended to have studied the subjects of General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and General Biology. To study Biochemistry II must have completed Biochemistry I.
Basic knowledge of general chemistry and cell biology. Basic concepts of metabolism and bioenergetics. Hormonal regulation of metabolism. Metabolism of carbohydrates and their regulation. Metabolic fates of pyruvate. Citric acid cycle. Electron transport and oxidative phosphorylation.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1205 - Degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics

Adquirir la formación básica para la actividad investigadora, siendo capaces de aplicar el método científico a la resolución de un problema, comprendiendo su importancia y sus limitaciones en materia sanitaria y nutricional.

Capacidad de integrar los contenidos estudiados en las diferentes materias cursadas en un conocimiento interdisciplinar aplicable al ámbito académico y profesional.

Capacidad de obtener, procesar e interpretar datos e información relevantes en el ámbito de la alimentación y la nutrición humana, haciendo uso de las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación.

Capacidad para transmitir ideas, analizar problemas y resolverlos con espíritu crítico, adquiriendo habilidades de trabajo en equipo y asumiendo el liderazgo cuando sea apropiado.

Conocer los nutrientes, estableciendo así la base del equilibrio nutricional e integrando nutrición y alimentación en situaciones fisiológicas y patológicas, siendo capaces de planificar y protocolizar dietas y evaluar el estado nutricional de individuos y colectividades.

Desarrollar habilidades para emprender estudios posteriores y actividades de formación continuada.

Know about the major metabolic pathways and obtain an integrated view of metabolism and its regulation.

Know and understand essential processes in the transmission of genetic information from DNA to protein.

Know how to apply the scientific method and acquire skills for managing the main bibliographic sources.

Know the biochemical and biological principles applicable to human nutrition and dietetics.

Know the mechanisms of production and transformation of energy.

Know the structure and properties of biological macromolecules and their relationship with the function that they perform.

Understand and use basic scientific terminology related to the subject area.

Understand the molecular origin of the basic functions of living beings and the main biotechnological and medical implications.

Understand the operation of enzymes and their regulation.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Gluconeogenesis

General features of gluconeogenesis. Precursors for the synthesis of glucose. Specific reactions of gluconeogenesis. Regulation. Intertissue relationships in the hepatic synthesis of glucose.

2. Pentose phosphate pathway

Functions, tissue and subcellular localization. Reaction sequence. Regulation of pentose phosphate pathway.

3. Glicogen metabolism

General features of glycogen metabolism. Digestion of glycogen. Glycogen breakdown. Glycogen synthesis. Control of glycogen metabolism.

4. Lipid catabolism

Digestion, absorption and transport of dietary lipids. Mobilization of triacylglycerols stores. Fatty acid oxidation. Metabolism of ketone bodies.

5. Lipid biosynthesis

Lipogenesis: biosynthesis of fatty acids and triacylglycerols. Regulation of fatty acid metabolism. Coordinated regulation of synthesis and degradation of fatty acids. Cholesterol biosynthesis.

6. Metabolism of plasma lipoproteins

Definition, classification and characteristics of major lipoproteins. Transport of lipoproteins. Endocytosis of LDL. Regulation of synthesis and transport of cholesterol.

7. Amino acid metabolism

Introduction to amino acid catabolism. Origin and fate of amino acids in mammals. Catabolism of amino acids. Nitrogen excretion and the urea cycle. Fate of amino acid carbon skeletons. Biosynthesis of nonessential amino acids in mammals.

8. Nucleotide metabolism

De novo synthesis of purine ribonucleotides and salvage pathways. De novo synthesis of pyrimidine ribonucleotides. Formation of deoxyribonucleotides. Degradation of nucleotides.

9. Integration of metabolism and tissue and organ specialization

Introduction. Interdependence of the major organs in fuel metabolism. Main processes of fuel storage, mobilization and use during the well-fed state, starvation, exercise, excessive alcohol consumption and in diabetes mellitus.

10. Genes and chromosomes

The Human Genome. Conformation of DNA: conformational variations and unusual structures. Tertiary structure: supercoiling of DNA. Structure of RNA. Forces stabilizing nucleic acid structures: denaturation and renaturation. Eukaryotic chromosome structure: chromatin.

11. DNA replication

General features of DNA replication. Enzymology of replication: DNA polymerases. Other proteins involved in replication. General scheme of the replication complex in the replicative fork of prokaryotes: the replisome. Bacterial chromosome replication. Replication in eukaryotes. The cell cycle. Replication initiation. Completion of replication: telomeres and telomerase. Compounds that inhibit replication.

12. Mutation, repair and recombination

Concept and classification of mutations. Biological effects. Causes and mechanisms of mutations. DNA repair. Direct reversal of damage. Mismatch repair. Excision repair. The SOS response. Double-strand break repair. Recombination. Homologous and site-specific recombination. Mobile genetic elements.

Retrotransposition.

13. Transcription and RNA maturation

Transcription definition. RNA polymerases. Transcription in prokaryotes. Initiation, elongation and termination of transcription. Promoters and general transcription factors in eukaryotes. Elongation and termination in eukaryotes. Transcription in mitochondria. Transcription inhibitors. Posttranscriptional processing of mRNA. Capping, polyadenylation and splicing. Ribosomal and transfer RNA processing.

14. Translation

The genetic code. The transfer RNA. Ribosomes: structure and general characteristics. Translation: generalities and direction. Stages of translation. Translation in eukaryotes. Inhibitors of protein synthesis. Protein maturation and posttranslational protein transport. Transport of proteins, the signal peptide. Glycosylation of proteins. Other posttranslational modifications. Degradation of proteins, the lysosomal system, the proteasome.

15. Regulation of gene expression in eukaryotes

Introduction: levels of regulation of gene expression. Promoter elements and enhancer sequences. Eukaryotic regulatory proteins. Binding and activation motifs. Regulation of expression at the level of chromatin: molecular mechanisms of transcriptional control in eukaryotes. RNA interference. Other levels of regulation.

16. Methods in Molecular biology

Purification of nucleic acids. Enzymes used in molecular biology. Electrophoresis of nucleic acids. Hybridization. PCR and RT-PCR. Sequencing of nucleic acids. Cloning of DNA: cloning and expression vectors, transformation methods, search and selection of genes. cDNA and genomic libraries. Directed mutagenesis. Genomics and proteomics. Transgenic animals.

17. Practicals

Determination of metabolites in blood from well-fed or fasted rats. Digestion of plasmidic DNA with restriction endonucleases. Visualization of the fragments generated by electrophoresis. Determination of the size of the fragments. Elaboration of the restriction map.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Tutorials	2,00
Theory	38,00
Seminar	2,00
Laboratory	15,00
Total hours	**57,00**

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	2,00
Independent study and work	55,00
Preparation of lessons	20,00
Preparation for assessment activities	13,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	**90,00**

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures. The will develop the essential concepts of the subject.

Group tutorials. They will be held in groups of 16 students, according to the established time-table. These sessions should reinforce the concepts presented in the lectures and should encourage the active participation of students. To do this, the teacher will propose questions to be discussed during the session, as well as questionnaires to be carried out online through the Virtual classroom. Also, it is the ideal means for students to raise questions or issues that may arise during the course. This will reveal how students assimilate concepts, identify any gaps or failures in the learning system and directly assesses the student's work.

Practicals. They will be held in groups of 16 students. They should allow students to become familiar with some basic techniques of biochemistry and molecular biology, to acquire some skills in lab work and to critically analyze the results, as well as to complement the concepts learned during the lectures. Attendance will be compulsory. There will be 3 laboratory sessions in groups of 2 students. Once finished, each working group should elaborate and present a written results report.

Seminars. These seminars will consist of complementary activities on topics proposed by the teaching staff, aligned with the general learning objectives of the course. Such activities may include oral presentations, critical analysis of documents or scientific articles, the resolution of practical case studies, the preparation of outreach materials (e.g., infographics), and discussions of current topics, among others. The seminars are designed to develop students' skills in searching for and synthesizing scientific information, using information and communication technologies (ICT), and applying artificial intelligence (AI) ethically and responsibly. They will also promote oral and written communication skills, teamwork, reflection, and constructive critical thinking. Seminar preparation will be supervised by the teaching staff during class sessions. Attendance at the seminars is compulsory.

EVALUATION

1. Theory. Written exam: short questions and multiple choice questions. **70 points**. Oral exams may also be conducted as part of the evaluation.

2. Practicals: 20 points.

- Written exam: problems and short questions or multiple choice questions. **15 points**.

- Assessment of laboratory work and Results Report. **5 points**.

3. Seminar. 10 points.

The work carried out will be assessed on the basis of its scientific content, as well as the quality of its communication, synthesis, and preparation. Students will also be evaluated on their ability to present and discuss their work with the teaching staff and their classmates, as well as on their integration into the working group. Students who are repeating the course and completed the seminars in the previous academic year (2025–26) may retain this grade for the 2026–27 academic year.

The questionnaires and activities proposed for the tutoring sessions will be valued over **5 points** and will serve to raise the final grade as long as the student reaches the minimum required in the theory and practical exams, as detailed below.

To pass the course a total score of **50 POINTS** is required, with a **MINIMUM** of **32 points in the theory written exam** and of **6 points in the written exam of practicals**. In addition, at least a 30 % of the total score of each part of the subject has to be achieved in the theory exam. In the case these minimal requirements are not met, the final qualification will be "Fail", and the final score (which cannot reach 5 points out of 10) will be the addition of the scores of the theory and practicals written exams, without considering the remaining issues (results report, questionnaries or activities and seminar).

Students who fail to pass in the first call will keep for the **second call** the score obtained in the theory written exam if they reach 35 points or the score of the practicals written exam if they reach 7.5 points. In addition, they will keep the score of the seminar and the Practicals Results Report.

In case of failing the course, the laboratory practices will be optional in following courses, as long as they have been taken at least once. If the practical exam has been passed with a mark equal to or higher than 7.5 points, the mark will be kept during the immediately following academic year if a new enrollment is made. In addition, they will keep the score of the seminar and the Practicals Results Report.

Attendance to group tutorials, seminars and practicals is compulsory the first year in order to pass the subject.

Note: Evidence of copying or plagiarism in any of the assessable tasks will result in failure to pass the subject and in appropriate disciplinary action being taken. Please note that, in accordance with article 13. d) of the Statute of the University Student (RD 1791/2010, of 30 December), it is the duty of students to refrain from using or participating in dishonest means in assessment tests, assignments, or university official documents. In the event of fraudulent practices, the "Action Protocol for fraudulent practices at the University of Valencia" will be applied (ACGUV 123/2020): https://www.uv.es/sgeneral/Protocols/C83sp.pdf

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