To Admissions Committees/Coordinators:

Since fall of 2016, University of Minnesota pre-health students in the College of Biological Sciences (CBS) have been completing the following sequence of general, organic, and biochemistry courses. The course names may be unfamiliar, and therefore, we want to provide a short explanation and links to the syllabi. The series was developed to cover general chemistry and organic chemistry with laboratories within three semesters, to focus the biochemistry of transcription, translation, and DNA synthesis in a separate course, and to refocus introductory biochemistry on life science topics.

CHEM 1081: Chemistry for the Life Sciences I (3 credit lecture in General Chemistry)
CHEM 1065: Chemistry Principles I Lab (1 credit lab in General Chemistry)
CHEM 1082: Chemistry for the Life Sciences II (3 credit lecture in General and Organic Chemistry)
CHEM 1086: Chemistry for the Life Sciences II Lab (1 credit lab in General and Organic Chemistry)
CHEM 2081: Chemistry for the Life Sciences III (3 credit lecture in Organic Chemistry)
CHEM 2085: Chemistry for the Life Sciences III Lab (2 credit lab in Organic Chemistry)
BIOL 3020: Molecular Biology and Society (3 credit lecture focusing on mechanisms of transcription, translation and DNA synthesis, applications, and societal impacts).
BIOC 3022: Biochemistry for the Life Sciences (3 credit lecture on structure and function of biomolecules (proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, and nucleic acids), central metabolic pathways, and the mechanisms of enzyme action)

For more detailed information about this course series, including course syllabi, please visit z.umn.edu/cbschemistry or contact cbsadv@umn.edu.

Students who complete this 16 credit chemistry (general, organic, and biochemistry) sequence along with 3 credits of molecular biology are ineligible to enroll in additional introductory general and organic chemistry coursework at the University of Minnesota due to duplicate course content and credits. Additionally, this course series fulfills the same degree requirements that our traditional chemistry sequence fulfills. Based on these factors, as well as the rigor of these courses and the advanced biological sciences coursework CBS students complete, we expect that health professional schools will accept this sequence to fulfill general, organic, and biochemistry prerequisites.

If you have any questions about this course sequence and fulfillment of your program’s prerequisites, please contact CBS Student Services at 612-624-9717 or cbsadv@umn.edu.

Sincerely,

John M. Ward
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
College of Biological Sciences
University of Minnesota Twin Cities