

Preface

This text is intended for students in any field of science or engineering who want a one-semester introduction to biochemistry but who do not intend to be biochemistry majors. My main goal in writing this book is to make biochemistry as clear and as interesting as possible and to familiarize all science students with the major aspects of biochemistry. For students of biology, chemistry, physics, geology, nutrition, and agriculture, biochemistry impacts greatly on the content of their fields, especially in the areas of medicine and biotechnology. For engineers, studying biochemistry is especially important for those who hope to enter a career in biomedical engineering or some form of biotechnology.

Students who will use this text are at an intermediate level in their studies. A beginning biology course, general chemistry, and at least one semester of organic chemistry are assumed as preparation.

This text attempts to give an overview of important topics of interest to biochemists and to show how the remarkable recent progress of biochemistry impinges on other scientists. The length is intended to allow instructors a choice of favorite topics, but not to be so long as to be overwhelming for the limited amount of time available in one semester.