Microbiology and Immunology

Introduction

Microbiology and Immunology is an ancillary department in the College of Arts and Sciences. Our primary goal is to educate students in their chosen field and instill in them a desire for lifelong learning. Research opportunities and laboratory engagement help create knowledge in our students while preparing them to become active members of the scientific and public communities. A major in Microbiology and Immunology requires thorough preparation in chemistry, biology, biochemistry, physics, and mathematics.

Educational Objectives

1. To expose students to the various disciplines within the field of Microbiology and Immunology, including virology, parasitology, microbial genetics, immunology and medical bacteriology.
2. To introduce students to special projects and/or research opportunities in laboratories at the School of Medicine.
3. To provide laboratory experience for the development of skills required for the conduct of research.
4. To make students aware of current cutting edge research in the field of Microbiology and Immunology by attending seminars of speakers from within and outside the University.

Degree Programs

- A Bachelor’s of Science degree is awarded to all microbiology and immunology majors upon completion of the requirements. A chemistry minor is automatically received however, a student’s choice of minor may be science or non-science.

Advanced Writing and Communication

To satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences writing requirement in the discipline, students majoring in Microbiology and Immunology should take at least one course from the following: MIC 301, MIC 304.

Departmental Honors

Students who wish to gain a deeper understanding of Microbiology and Immunology can choose to write a thesis. The following program constitutes receiving Departmental Honors in Microbiology and Immunology.

1. Overall GPA 3.3 or higher
2. Six credit hours of Special Projects (MIC 451, MIC 452, MIC 453, MIC 454, MIC 455 or MIC 456) carried out under supervision of a member of the Microbiology and Immunology faculty, culminating in a senior thesis that includes 15 references. Once the mentor and student have revised and finalized the document a hard copy must be turned in to the Program Director.

MIC 100. Microbiology as it Relates to Humans. 3 Credit Hours.

An introductory microbiology course for the summer scholars program. Microorganisms are in every facet of our lives and make up a microscopic world. Right now, your body is inhabited by over 40 trillion bacteria. Due to the evolution of our immune systems, we have been able to coexist with this world. It is when our immune systems weaken or when our otherwise healthy immune system encounters a particularly nasty pathogen that we become vulnerable. This course will cover the topics of how our immune system works, how microbial pathogens cause disease, how beneficial microbes protect us from disease, and some of the other activities perform that impact our world. The laboratory will provide you with invaluable experience in growing, staining, viewing and identifying microorganisms through the use of practical techniques and procedures. An in lab presentation of your "unknown organism" will culminate what you have learned.

Components: LAB.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring & Summer.

MIC 201. Modern Plagues and Society. 3 Credit Hours.

An examination of three infectious diseases (AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria) that currently impact a significant fraction of the human population, describing the infectious microbes themselves, efforts of researchers to contain these diseases, and how politics, infrastructure, and geographical factors determine public health outcomes.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Summer.

MIC 280. UMiami Scientifica Magazine - Writer. 0 Credit Hours.

UMiami Scientifica is a premier scientific publication at the University of Miami. The magazine, focuses on the STEM fields and publishes quarterly. Students who write for the magazine will learn to write clearly, concisely and in a manner that can be understood by the layperson. Successfully completing an article does not mean that an article will be published.

Components: THI.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring & Summer.

MIC 301. Introduction to Microbes and the Immune System. 3 Credit Hours.

Basic principles of microbiology and immunology, including laboratory exercises. Course is required for microbiology and immunology majors; recommended for biology, chemistry and biochemistry majors and those considering the health sciences.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

MIC 302. Honors Seminar. 1 Credit Hour.

Special topics in Microbiology/Immunology requiring a term paper and/or an oral presentation.

Prerequisite: MIC 301 or MIC 303 or MIC 320. Requisite: Honors Program.

Components: SEM.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.
MIC 303. Part 1 of 2: Introductory Microbiology and Immunology (Lecture). 3 Credit Hours.
Basic principles of microbiology and immunology. This course is part one of a two part sequence. Course is required for MIC majors; recommended for BIL, CHM, BMB majors and those considering the health sciences.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

MIC 304. Introduction to Microbes and the Immune System (Lab). 2 Credit Hours.
Basic laboratory principles of microbiology and immunology. This course is part two of a two part sequence. Course is required for all students taking the MIC 303.
Components: LAB.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

MIC 319. Innate Immunity. 3 Credit Hours.
The innate immune system provides the first line of defense against infectious microorganisms and is a very important disease-preventing mechanism. In this course the students will learn the molecular and cellular processes mediating innate immune responses to microbial pathogens, including intra- and extra- cellular bacteria and viruses. Prerequisite: MIC 301 OR 303 OR 304.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

MIC 320. Introduction to Microbes and the Immune System for Nurses. 3 Credit Hours.
Course covers the basic principles of microbiology and immunology. Course cannot be used for MIC major or minor credit. Requisite: School of Nursing Health Studies.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

MIC 321. Immunobiology. 3 Credit Hours.
Mechanisms underlying the cooperation between T-cells, B-cells, and antigens leading to humoral and cell mediated responses. The significance of immune cells and their products pertaining to autoimmunity, transplantation, and the surveillance of neoplastic cells is covered. Prerequisite: MIC 301 or MIC 303.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

MIC 322. Medical Parasitology. 3 Credit Hours.
Course discusses the biochemistry, physiology, pathogenicity, immunology, and mechanism of drug action and resistance of medically important parasitic protozoa, trematodes, nematodes, and cestodes. Prerequisite: MIC 301 or MIC 303.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

MIC 323. Microbial Pathogenesis and Physiology. 3 Credit Hours.
Course analyzes host-microbe relationships at the molecular and cellular levels with an emphasis on microbial virulence determinants and host cell defense responses. Prerequisite: MIC 301. Or MIC 303.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

MIC 436. Fundamental and Medical Virology. 3 Credit Hours.
The study of viruses as biological entities and etiological agents of disease. Virus-cell and virus-host interactions are also discussed. Prerequisite: MIC 301 or MIC 303.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

MIC 441. Microbiology and Immunology Colloquium. 1 Credit Hour.
External and internal faculty presentations as well as graduate presentations of recent advances in research. Course meets on hour per week. Prerequisite: MIC 301. Or MIC 303.
Components: SEM.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

MIC 451. Special Projects in Immunobiology. 2-6 Credit Hours.
Wet bench laboratory research with faculty in the Microbiology and Immunology (M&I) Department at the Miller School of Medicine. Students will be actively participating in all aspects of hypothesis-driven scientific research ranging from familiarity with the literature to conducting and analyzing experiments. Requisite: at least 17 credits in MIC and MIN GPA 3.0.
Components: THI.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

MIC 452. Special Projects in Parasitology. 2-6 Credit Hours.
Wet bench laboratory research with faculty in the Microbiology and Immunology (M&I) Department at the Miller School of Medicine. Students will be actively participating in all aspects of hypothesis-driven scientific research ranging from familiarity with the literature to conducting and analyzing experiments. Requisite: at least 17 credits in MIC and MIN GPA 3.0.
Components: THI.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

MIC 453. Special Projects in Pathogenic Bacteriology. 2-6 Credit Hours.
Wet bench laboratory research with faculty in the Microbiology and Immunology (M&I) Department at the Miller School of Medicine. Students will be actively participating in all aspects of hypothesis-driven scientific research ranging from familiarity with the literature to conducting and analyzing experiments. Requisite: at least 17 credits in MIC and MIN GPA 3.0.
Components: THI.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.
MIC 454. Special Projects in Microbial Genetics. 2-6 Credit Hours.
Wet bench laboratory research with faculty in the Microbiology and Immunology (M&I) Department at the Miller School of Medicine. Students will be actively participating in all aspects of hypothesis-driven scientific research ranging from familiarity with the literature to conducting and analyzing experiments.
Requisite: at least 17 credits in MIC and MIN GPA 3.0.
Components: THI.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

MIC 455. Special Projects in Immunogenetics. 2-6 Credit Hours.
Wet bench laboratory research with faculty in the Microbiology and Immunology (M&I) Department at the Miller School of Medicine. Students will be actively participating in all aspects of hypothesis-driven scientific research ranging from familiarity with the literature to conducting and analyzing experiments.
Requisite: at least 17 credits in MIC and MIN GPA 3.0.
Components: THI.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

MIC 456. Special Projects in Virology. 2-6 Credit Hours.
Wet bench laboratory research with faculty in the Microbiology and Immunology (M&I) Department at the Miller School of Medicine. Students will be actively participating in all aspects of hypothesis-driven scientific research ranging from familiarity with the literature to conducting and analyzing experiments.
Requisite: at least 17 credits in MIC and MIN GPA 3.0.
Components: THI.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

MIC 460. Advanced Topics in Microbiology and Immunology. 3 Credit Hours.
An extensive and detailed examination of a number of topics covered in the core courses of the major. The goal is for upper-division undergraduate students to take the knowledge base they acquired in their major core courses into 'cutting edge' research areas. Each topic (of a total of 4 to 8) will be presented by a Faculty member with expertise in the area. (HIV Infection and the Immune System, Immunology of Pregnancy, Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases, Mitochondria: Glorified G.-bacteria) Emphasis will be placed on gaining a familiarity with the primary scientific literature.
Requisite: MIC 301 OR MIC 303 OR MIC 304 AND MIC 319 AND MIC 321.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.