The Bachelor Degree in Biochemistry: a New Challenge for the Biochemical Education at the University of Maringá

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Ten years after the pioneer initiative of the Viçosa University, the bachelor degree in biochemistry can still be considered a novelty in Brazil. It certainly represents a challenge mainly because of the intricate interplay of biochemistry with several well-established disciplines and careers. The UEM-Department of Biochemistry decided to accept this challenge and is now offering its bachelor degree in 2011. Central to the main philosophy underlying the proposed curriculum were the following points: (a) broad training in exact sciences, thus recognizing the quantitative nature of biochemistry; (b) broad offer of biochemical disciplines aiming to prepare the students for careers in various service and industry sectors in addition to academic research; (c) full recognition of the marriage between biochemistry and molecular biology, as epitomized by the current names of the learned societies. The curriculum encompasses a wide range of biochemical disciplines from the traditional ones to technological branches. Experimental skills will be developed in laboratories of biomolecules, molecular biology, enzymology and metabolism. Receptiveness in the community was highly promising as can be judged by the prompt approval by the university and government authorities as well as by the relatively elevated number of candidates in the entrance examinations.

Key words: bachelor; curriculum; careers.

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