

Hit the lab ground running! Some super-quick suggestions to set yourself up for scientific success* (in biochemistry & related fields)

** Hopefully—there's still a lot of luck needed!*

Learn/Memorize (don't worry, there's not much!)

- ☐ Amino acid abbreviations & properties
- ☐ Word roots, suffixes, prefixes

Get used to using databases

- ☐ UniProt
- ☐ PDB
- ☐ NCBI Nucleotide
- ☐ PubMed, Google Scholar, etc.

Learn to use software tools

- ☐ Molecular visualization software (PyMOL, ChimeraX, etc.)
- ☐ Molecular biology suite (Benching, SnapGene, CLC Main, APE, etc)
- ☐ Reference management software (Zotero, Mendeley, etc.)

Start becoming proficient in general software tools

- ☐ Vector graphics software (Adobe Illustrator, Inkscape, etc.)
- ☐ Slideshow maker (PowerPoint, Keynote, Google Slides, etc.)
- ☐ Spreadsheet software (Excel, etc.)
- ☐ Clipboard manager (e.g. CopyClip)

Set up a solid organizational system

- ☐ Create a secure, cloud-based directory with specific folders & sub-folders for different types of data & files
- ☐ Start saving the date in file names and use_underscores_not_spaces
- ☐ Get in the habit of saving files often and backing up your data

Surround yourself with supportive people, enjoy the privilege of learning, and pay it forward!