

## secondary structure

The conformational arrangement ( $\alpha$ -helix,  $\beta$ -pleated sheet, etc.) of the backbone segments of a macromolecule such as a polypeptide chain of a protein without regard to the conformation of the side chains or the relationship to other segments.

**See also:** primary structure, tertiary structure, quaternary structure

**Source:**

PAC, 1996, 68, 2193 (*Basic terminology of stereochemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)*) on page 2218