Molecular and Cell Biology
Bachelor of Arts

INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR
The Molecular and Cell Biology (MCB) major focuses on the study of molecular structures and processes of cellular life and their roles in the function, reproduction, and development of living organisms. This covers a broad range of specialized disciplines, such as biochemistry, microbiology, biophysics, molecular biology, genetics, cell physiology, cell anatomy, immunology, and neurobiology.

The MCB major provides excellent preparation for many careers and post-baccalaureate training programs, including graduate programs and health-related professional programs (e.g., medicine, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy), science writing, law school, biotechnology, teaching, and academic research.

“...My classes challenge me to think critically in an experimental setting, and my professors are constantly updating the course material with the latest findings.”

– Joanna Maltbaek, MCB major

EMPHASES IN MCB
All MCB students complete the same lower division coursework to gain critical training in Biology, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics. Upon declaring the major, MCB students choose an emphasis, or concentration, which determines their upper division core courses and elective courses. There are five emphases in MCB:
- Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Cell & Developmental Biology
- Genetics, Genomics & Development
- Immunology & Pathogenesis
- Neurobiology

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR
- Take advantage of summer research opportunities in Berkeley or beyond.
- Explore math and science education and learn teaching skills with CalTeach.
- Conduct research and present your findings as part of the MCB Honors Program.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP
Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

CONNECT WITH US
Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit mcb.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING
Staff advisors are here to support you through remote and in-person appointments, plus drop-in advising options.
Junior and senior MCB students also provide peer advising on the content of specific classes, help you to develop plans, and answer general questions about being a student at Berkeley.
After you declare the MCB major, you can meet with a faculty advisor — MCB professors assigned to advise students about the MCB department, courses, research, and other academic issues.

CONNECT WITH US
Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.

Photo credit: Bonnie Azab Powell

Photo credit: Elena Zhukova

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MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY
Bachelor of Arts

FIRST YEAR
- Visit the MCB website to learn about the five emphases within the MCB major.
- Meet with an MCB Peer advisor to discuss your options and map out a 4-year plan.
- Enroll in Freshman Seminars on interesting topics, explore major opportunities and resources.

SECOND YEAR
- Continue completing lower division requirements.
- Consider a minor or summer minor to complement your MCB major.
- Talk to an MCB staff advisor to review your major requirements and discuss declaring.

THIRD YEAR
- Finish lower division requirements for the major and start your emphasis-specific upper division courses.
- If still undeclared, visit the MCB website to start the declaration process.
- Expand your studies with an enrichment course or elective in another department.

FOURTH YEAR
- Check your Academic Progress Report (APR) and meet with an MCB staff advisor and college advisor to ensure you are on track to fulfill all major, college, and campus requirements.
- Finish any remaining major and college requirements.
- Complete an optional senior honors thesis.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?
Jobs and Employers
- Clinical Laboratory Tech., Illumina
- Medical Scribe, PhysAssist
- Recruiting Coordinator, Google
- Medical Scribe, PhysAssist
- Lab Technician, UC Berkeley

Graduate Programs
- Premed
- Biochemistry
- Biomedical Engineering
- Biomedical Sciences
- Biostatistics
- Chemistry
- Dentistry
- Education
- Genetics
- Immunology
- Medicine
- Neurobiology
- Optometry
- Organic Chemistry
- Pharmacy
- Physiology
- Podiatry
- Public Health

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

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Connect and build community
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and explore student organizations such as MCBUSA and MCBDNA.
- Form a study group and get tutoring in the Student Learning Center.
- Follow MCB on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Discover your passions
- Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships to learn about research opportunities and resources on campus.
- Take L&S1 for an introduction to the College.
- Explore new topics in student-facilitated DeCal courses.

Engage locally and globally
- Research study abroad options for MCB students.
- Explore volunteering opportunities on campus and in the Berkeley community such as Berkeley Free Clinic or Suitcase Clinic.
- Learn about community service with the Public Service Center.

Reflect and plan your future
- Join Handshake to find Berkeley-specific internship opportunities and career development workshops.
- Shadow alumni with the Cal Job Shadow Program.
- Visit the Career Counseling Library to explore all of the career options in MCB.

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