INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Genetics and Plant Biology major is a broad-based program emphasizing the study of plants from the molecular and genetic to organismal levels. The lower division coursework provides students with a foundation in biological and physical sciences as preparation for advanced study at the upper division level and in their concentration. The Department of Plant and Microbial Biology provides a rich and supportive environment for learning, and coursework from the department can be used as a foundation for applications to medical school.

MAJOR CONCENTRATIONS

Students in the Genetics and Plant Biology major have the opportunity to pursue one of four concentrations through their elective coursework: (1) biotechnology and bioenergy, (2) plant diversity and evolution, (3) plant genetics, genomes, or (4) bioinformatics, and plant microbe interactions.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Get involved in a student group such as Microbial Sciences Association or Planty Social.
- Apply for a research position through the SPUR program and present at a college poster session.
- Fund travel for academic conferences or research with a Rausser College Travel Grant.
- Carry out a research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor through the Rausser College Honors Program.

GPB is technical information that’s applicable to real post-grad jobs! I’ve learned about so much that directly translates to lab work, research, and real life.

– Julia Sherman, GPB Junior
# DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

## FIRST YEAR

- **Explore your major**
  - Meet with your college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
  - Review major and college requirements.
  - Talk to the college's peer advisors about life in the major.

- **Connect and build community**
  - Take advantage of the college’s Student Resource Center.
  - Join a student group such as Microbial Sciences Association or Planty Social.
  - Get 11 mentoring from graduate students with Berkeley Connect.

- **Discover your passions**
  - Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course.
  - Apply for a research position through SPUR.
  - Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
  - Learn about research opportunities for Rausser College students.

- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
  - Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
  - Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.

- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
  - Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
  - Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
  - Check out the Genetics and Plant Biology Career Snapshot.

## SECOND YEAR

- **Explore your major**
  - Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
  - Complement your major with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.
  - Review college guidelines for study abroad.

- **Connect and build community**
  - Start attending events in the college.
  - Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.
  - Connect with a community of biology students in the Biology Scholars Program.

- **Discover your passions**
  - Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
  - Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP or SURF-SMART.
  - Check out research by your peers at a college poster session.

- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Contribute to a community organization with an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
  - Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program.
  - Check out the Moorea program for fieldwork opportunities abroad.

- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Take advantage of career and pre-health advising for Rausser Collge students.
  - Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter externship.
  - Learn about graduate and professional school. See Step-by-Step for planning help. Plan internships and attend internship fairs.

## THIRD YEAR

- **Explore your major**
  - Focus elective courses on a concentration.
  - Explore approved electives from outside departments for a more interdisciplinary experience, or build an emphasis by taking interrelated classes.
  - Ask your college advisor about the Rausser College Honors program.

- **Connect and build community**
  - Help other students as a Rausser College Peer Advisor or Student Ambassador.
  - Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader to welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
  - Seek mentorship from your professors, faculty, and graduate student instructors.

- **Discover your passions**
  - Apply for a Rausser College Travel Grant to fund travel for academic conferences or research.
  - Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database, SPUR, or URAP.
  - Consider applying to the NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates.

- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Look into the Career Center’s list of health volunteer opportunities.
  - Explore science and policy in Washington DC with UCDC or Cal in the Capital.

- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Conduct informational interviews.
  - Discuss graduate school options with advisors and professors.
  - Update your resume and LinkedIn profile.
  - Attend career and graduate school fairs such as the STEM Career & Internship Fair.

## FOURTH YEAR

- **Explore your major**
  - Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
  - Complete any “bucket list” courses.
  - Finish remaining major, college, and campus requirements.

- **Connect and build community**
  - Join a professional association related to your interests.
  - Connect with alumni groups and build your network as you prepare to graduate.

- **Discover your passions**
  - Teach your own DeCal course.
  - Undertake an optional honors thesis or independent study.
  - Present your research at a poster session or submit it to the Berkeley Scientific Journal.
  - Keep pursuing your interests through a fellowship or gap year after graduation.

- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.
  - Attend a conference such as the Clinton Global Initiative: University Conference. Look into travel grants from the college and ASUC.

- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.
  - Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting.
  - Apply to jobs, graduate school, and other opportunities.

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**WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?**

**Jobs and Employers**
- Analyst, Cornerstone Research
- Lab Tech, Foriphyte
- Research Asst., LBNL
- Res. Assoc., Innovative Genomics Inst.

**Graduate Programs**
- Biochemistry, PhD
- Horticultural Science, Masters
- Molecular Biology, PhD
- Plant Biology, PhD
- Soil Science & Agronomy, Masters

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