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.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

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

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.

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
# Genetics and Plant Biology

## First Year
- Meet with your college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Review major and college requirements.
- Talk to CNR peer advisors about life in the major.

## Connect and Build Community
- Take advantage of CNR’s Student Resource Center for a supportive environment for academics and daily student life.
- Join a CNR student group such as Microbial Sciences Association or Planty Social.
- Get 1:1 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 CNR students.
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP or SMART.
- Check out research by your peers at a CNR poster session.

## 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.
- 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
- Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
- Sign up for Handshake and Career Mail.
- Check out the Genetics and Plant Biology Career Snapshot.
- Take advantage of career and pre-health advising for CNR 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.

## Second Year
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Complement your major with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.
- Review CNR guidelines for study abroad.
- Start attending CNR undergraduate events.
- Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.
- Connect with a community of biology students in the Biology Scholars Program.

## Third Year
- 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 CNR Honors program.

## Fourth Year
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any “bucket list” courses.
- Finish remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
- Help other students as a CNR 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.

## What Can I Do With My Major?
- Jobs and Employers
  - Analyst, Cornerstone Research
  - Lab Tech, Foriphyle
  - Research Asst., LLNL
  - 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 Career Destinations Survey of Recent Berkeley Graduates