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 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.

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

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 nature.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING

The Undergraduate Advisors for all Rausser College majors are located in the Office of Instruction and Student Affairs in 260 Mulford Hall.

Visit nature.berkeley.edu/advising/meet-rausser-advisors for detailed office hours and appointment booking links. You may email general advising questions to pmb.ugrad@berkeley.edu.

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GENETICS AND PLANT BIOLOGY
Bachelor of Science

**FIRST YEAR**
- 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.

**SECOND YEAR**
- 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.

**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 Rausser College 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.

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**Design Your Journey**

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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

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

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[Updated Last: 062920]