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.

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.
MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY

Design Your Journey

Bachelor of Arts

Explore your major

- 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.

Connect and build community

- Attend Calpalooza student activities fair and explore student organizations such as MCBUSA and MCBcDNA.
- 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 Suitscase 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 a winter externship.
- Visit the Career Counseling Library to explore all of the career options in MCB.

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.
- 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.

Second Year

- Go to office hours to build relationships with MCB faculty and graduate student instructors.
- Sign up for the MCB newsletter to find out about events happening in the department.
- Connect with a community of biology students in the Biology Scholars Program.
- Learn about the many ways to find research in MCB-related fields.
- Apply to the Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program.
- Develop skills teaching math and science to K-12 students in the CalTeach Program.

Third Year

- Give back by becoming an MCB Peer Advisor or tutor at the Student Learning Center.
- Get involved with citizen science in the community.
- Apply for leadership positions in student organizations.
- Apply to summer research opportunities such as SURF and the Haas Scholars Program.
- Apply for fellowships to fund your own research project.
- Talk to your major advisor about the MCB Honors Program.

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
- Clinical Research Coordinator, UCSF
- Consultant, Deloitte Consulting
- Fellow-Comm. Health, Peace Corps
- Histology Tech, Kaiser Permanente
- Lab Technician, UC Berkeley
- Life Sci. Strat. Analts., Hurow Consulting
- Medical Scribe, PhysAssist
- Recruiting Coordinator, Google
- Research Associate, Genentech
- Research Technician, CalTech
- Sales Rep, Vanda Pharmaceuticals Inc.
- Teacher, Teach for America

Graduate Programs

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

Examples gathered from the Career Destinations Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

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