Prefering the next generation of scientific leaders for success

Discover how a degree in the biological sciences can help transform our world

The UC Davis College of Biological Sciences ranks among the nation’s top institutions dedicated to the study of life sciences. We offer a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to education, with world-class faculty and advanced research facilities. With nine majors and a variety of minors to choose from, you will be well-prepared for a successful career among the next generation of scientific leaders.

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Develop expertise in the chemistry of living organisms. You’ll use experimental techniques to explore and study the structures and functions of molecules essential to life. Students who enjoy chemistry and biology and are comfortable with quantitative approaches to problem solving will find this a rewarding field of study, as it forms the basic foundations for many scientific disciplines.

Biological Sciences
Gain a broad overview of biology with an opportunity to focus on a particular field of interest to you. You’ll learn how to describe the molecular and structural unity of many types of life, and explain how diversity of life is generated. You’ll explore microbes, plants and animals as well as their methods for functioning within their environments.

Cell Biology
Explore the principles that govern the ways biomolecules interact with one another to organize themselves into cells, and how cellular organization and function contribute to the development, maintenance and reproduction of adult organisms. You’ll discover how cells function, reproduce and interact with one another, including what happens when processes go wrong — and how to correct them if they do.

Evolution, Ecology and Biodiversity
Study the diversity of physiology and genetics, as well as how varieties of species emerged. You’ll explore how plants, animals and microbes adapt to the environment and to each other. You’ll learn to predict whether populations of interacting organisms will persist over time or become extinct. These fundamental concepts form the foundation for efforts in the conservation and protection of biodiversity.

Genetics and Genomics
Answer fundamental questions about how organisms inherit unique characteristics and transmit them to their offspring. This major provides a broad background in the biological, mathematical and physical sciences essential to the study of heredity and evolution, with flexibility to accommodate students interested in the subject as a foundational discipline or in terms of its applied aspects.
Marine and Coastal Sciences
Discover the foundational disciplines within marine science, including biology, chemistry, geology and physics. You’ll explore modern issues facing marine and coastal environments, such as climate change, pollution and conservation. This major requires field experience (the Bodega Marine Laboratory is a natural choice for many students), independent research or an internship, and concludes with a capstone research course.

Microbiology
Zoom in to the pervasive world of microbiology, the branch of biology that deals with bacteria, yeasts and other fungi, algae, protozoa and viruses. You’ll take foundational courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics and may also choose from courses such as microbial ecology, bacterial physiology and genetics, virology and bacterial diversity. The field of microbiology contributes to many different areas of the life sciences, including the study of aging, cancer and DNA repair.

Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior
Investigate the functions and forms that shape behavior. In this major, you’ll study the processes and physiological mechanisms of animals from cellular, organ system and organism perspectives. You’ll learn about the nervous system and tissues that make up learning, memory, sensation, perception, emotion and movement as well as how these responses contribute to an organism’s survival.

Plant Biology
Grow an expert understanding of plants with a major that consists of core courses in applied biology, anatomy, physiology and ecology as well as biochemistry, cell biology and genetics. You’ll explore plants from the molecular and whole organismal perspectives, in addition to their ecological relationship to other species within the environment.

“The discipline from working in the lab — whether it be learning to time my experiments, analyzing my data or working with collaborators — has imparted skills that I have found useful in all aspects of my life.”
– Yasaswi V. Vengalasetti, ’16 B.S.
Supporting your academic success

The Biology Academic Success Center provides undergraduate students with comprehensive academic advisement from staff, faculty and peer advisors.

In addition to individual academic support, BASC offers a variety of workshops and seminars designed to introduce students to career and research opportunities, help strengthen study skills and network with potential employers.

UC Davis Biology Academic Success Center Advising
530-752-0410
cbsundergrads@ucdavis.edu
basc.ucdavis.edu

HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT AN ADVISOR TO LEARN MORE

First Year Experience Cohort Program

To build a sense of community within our college, new students will be grouped according to their major and participate in hands-on academic and extracurricular activities.

The Cohort Program provides exposure to available research resources and helps develop relationships with faculty. Career discussions and guidance will prepare students for professional success.

Explore the Cohort Program
biology.ucdavis.edu/cohort-program