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 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.

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 CNR majors are located in the Office of Instruction and Student Affairs in 260 Mulford Hall.

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

**Bachelor of Science**

## Design Your Journey

### What Can I Do with My Major?

**Jobs and Employers**
- Analyst, Cornerstone Research
- Lab Tech, Foriphyte

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

### First Year

- **Explore your major**
  - 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.
  - Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
  - Contribute to a community organization with an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.

- **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.
  - Enroll in the Moorea program for fieldwork opportunities abroad.

### 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 CNR guidelines for study abroad.

- **Connect and build community**
  - 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.

- **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 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.
  - Enroll in the Moorea program for fieldwork opportunities abroad.

### 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 CNR Honors program.

- **Connect and build community**
  - 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.

- **Discover your passions**
  - Apply for a CNR 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.
  - 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 CNR and ASUC.

### 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 organization related to your interests.
  - Connect with alumni groups and build your network as you prepare to graduate.

- **Discover your passions**
  - Attend a conference such as the Clinton Global Initiative: University Conference. Look into travel grants from CNR and ASUC.

- **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 CNR and ASUC.

**Career Destinations Survey**
- Soil Science & Agronomy, Masters
- Horticultural Science, Masters
- Biochemistry, PhD
- Molecular Biology, PhD
- Plant Biology, PhD

**Career Mail**
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
- Check out the Genetics and Plant Biology Career Snapshot.

**Career Center**
- Check out the Career Center.
- Visit the Career and Counseling Library.
- Review college advisor and career requirements.
- Meet with your college advisor to discuss your academic plans.

**Yearly Planner**
- Check out the Career Center.
- Review college advisor and career requirements.
- Meet with your college advisor to discuss your academic plans.

**Counseling Library**
- Visit the Career Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Consider applying to the NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates.
- Seek mentorship from your professors, faculty, and graduate student instructors.

**Office of Undergraduate Research**
- Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research.
- Apply for a research position through SPUR.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader to welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- Review CNR guidelines for study abroad.

**SPUR**
- Apply for a research position through SPUR.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader to welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- Review CNR guidelines for study abroad.

**DeCal course**
- Register for a DeCal course.

**Seminar**
- Attend a seminar.

**Discovery Course**
- Enroll in a Discovery Course.

**Senior Seminar**
- Enroll in a Senior Seminar.

**Big Ideas Course**
- Enroll in a Big Ideas Course.

**Research opportunities**
- Discover research opportunities for CNR students.
- Submit your research to the Berkeley Scientific Journal.

**Career Survival Guide**
- Read the Career Survival Guide.

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

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