

Microbial Biology (MB)

Overview of Major: Microbial biology is a pivotal field of study because small life forms such as microbes, viruses, and fungi make up the majority of planetary biomass, and constitute key branches of the Tree of Life. Microbes play fundamental roles in maintaining biosphere health: they degrade environmental pollutants; they supply essential nutrients and chemicals directly to multi-cellular organisms, and they engage in numerous beneficial symbioses with higher organisms. Infectious diseases regulate populations of plant and animals, and outbreaks recur in human societies globally.

Minimum Admission Requirements: Must be completed by the end of spring term preceding fall enrollment.

Berkeley Courses:
English R1A & English R1B
Chemistry 1A & 1AL
Chemistry 3A & 3AL
Chemistry 3B & 3BL
Biology 1A & 1AL
Biology 1B
Math 1A or 10A or 16A
Math 1B or 10B or 16B
Check assist.org for the course equivalencies at your community college

Other helpful courses:

- Statistics 2, 20, or 131A
- Physics 8A (and 8B if premed)
- Breadth requirements (15 units of humanities and social science)
- American Cultures Requirement

Admissions Review Process:

- Holistic review: Based on combination of academic and non-academic achievements.
- Includes personal essay, coursework, test scores, interest in the major and field. A thoughtful essay demonstrating a clear interest in the major helps build a stronger application.
- For more about admissions review: <http://admissions.berkeley.edu/selectstudents>

Application Timeline:

- UC Systemwide Application (November)
- UC Berkeley Work in Progress Update (January)
- Advisor Review (February)
- Decision notification (Late April)

Helpful Things to Know:

- IGETC satisfies Reading & Composition and all breadth courses. Research experience is strongly encouraged, though not required.

How to contact an advisor:

Major Advisor: Patricia Helyer, pmb.ugrad@berkeley.edu (appointments are preferred for prospective students)

Microbial Biology Website: <http://nature.berkeley.edu/advising/majors/microbial-biology>