Choosing Your Major in CNR: Which major will help you reach your goals?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Biological Sciences</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
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<td><strong>Why Study Biology in CNR?</strong></td>
<td>You are interested in a pre-health professional program (e.g. medical, dental, optometry, pharmacy, veterinary schools) and want a major to help you “stand out” from the pack. You would like opportunities to do research in a faculty lab and receive strong training in lab courses. You are interested in a graduate education in a biological field, or a career in research, government, industry, or academia.</td>
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| **Genetics & Plant Biology**  
[http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/gpb](http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/gpb) | You are interested in plant-microbe interactions and the study of plant genetics, diversity, evolution, and bioenergy. You are interested in plant morphology, plant molecular genetics, plant cell biology, and the physiology and biochemistry of plants. You want to study plants from the molecular genetic level up through the organismal levels, including applications to biotechnology. You are concerned about environmentally sound ways to address human needs for plant products (e.g., the risks and benefits of genetically modified organisms). |
| **Microbial Biology**  
[http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/mb](http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/mb) | You are interested in studying biology at the micro level, focusing on microorganisms like bacteria, protozoa, and viruses. You want to learn how microbes affect the earth’s biosphere, including how they help combat environmental pollutants, facilitate energy production, and influence biomedical research. You are concerned about environmentally sound ways to address human needs for plant products (e.g., the risks and benefits of genetically modified organisms). You want to gain skills needed to evaluate scientific information as a result of receiving training in statistics, computational biology, and genomics. |
| **Molecular Environmental Biology**  
[http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/meb](http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/meb) | You have a broad interest in biology, from the molecular to the ecological levels. You are interested in studying biology from an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating coursework from across campus. You are interested in studying our environment through the lens of molecular, cellular, organismal, and ecological biology, in an effort to understand issues like climate change, soil erosion, resource management, animal behavior, and human health. You are interested in a concentration area such as animal health and behavior, ecology, insect biology, microbiology, environmental and human health, or biodiversity. |
| **Nutritional Sciences & Toxicology**  
[http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/pspm](http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/pspm)  
[http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/nsd](http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/nsd)  
[http://nature.berkeley.edu/advising/majors/molecular-toxicology](http://nature.berkeley.edu/advising/majors/molecular-toxicology) | There are 3 specializations in Nutritional Sciences and Toxicology: Physiology and Metabolism, Dietetics (which prepares students for a career as a Registered Dietitian), and Molecular Toxicology. You want to explore the biological and chemical sciences to study how nutrients and toxins affect human health and disease. You are interested in the delivery of nutrients from foods to cells and the function of nutrients in energy metabolism. You would like to understand how dietary patterns affect the function and health of humans. You are seeking a strong foundation in the biological and chemical sciences with specialized advanced coursework focusing on the hazardous and beneficial effects of natural and human-made toxic agents. You are interested in learning how organisms are affected by natural and synthetic agents such as pollutants, drugs, nutrients, and herbs. You want to solve problems of human health, safety, and the environment using molecular and computational methods. You want to prepare for graduate work and/or a career in forensic sciences, environmental protection, pharmacology, or pharmacy. |
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<th>Social Sciences &amp; Interdisciplinary Studies</th>
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| Conservation & Resource Studies [http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/crs](http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/crs) | You want to study the environment, but your interests are cross-disciplinary, with your interests spanning the biological sciences, physical sciences, social sciences, and/or humanities.  
You want an individualized, interdisciplinary educational approach to understanding the structure and dynamic functions of complex environmental systems within our society and biosphere.  
You are concerned about the environment and human welfare, and are interested in the interaction among natural resources, population, energy, technology, societal institutions and cultural values.  
You want flexibility and the ability to work closely with faculty to design a degree specific to your interests. |
| Environmental Economics & Policy [http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/eep](http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/eep) | You are interested in economics, policy, and law, and are strong in math.  
You are interested in how markets and cultures motivate natural resource and environmental policy.  
You want a deeper understanding of international development, and the balancing of environmental use and protection.  
You want good preparation for business or law school, or graduate programs in agricultural and resource economics.  
You like the idea of a career in environmental law, policy, economics, or environmental or economic consulting. |
| Society & Environment [http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/se](http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/se) | You want a major that focuses on the policies and politics surrounding environmental issues.  
You want to study how social science tools can be applied to environmental problems, and how social science theories contribute to understanding environmental problems.  
You want an interdisciplinary curriculum, allowing you to take courses from a variety of departments and disciplines across campus.  
You want to focus your study in one of the three primary areas of concentration: US Environmental Policy & Management, Global Environmental Politics, or Justice & Sustainability. |
| Environmental Sciences [http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/es](http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/es) | You are looking for an environmental major based in the biological, physical, and social sciences.  
You want to have the option of making choices about the focus and direction of your major.  
You want to take classes from many different departments to gain a broad, interdisciplinary understanding of environmental issues and problems.  
You want to learn about the interactions between human activities and the environment.  
You want to work with faculty to conduct a senior thesis research project on the topic of your choice.  
You want to pursue graduate studies or a career in: ecology, natural sciences, public health, health sciences, environmental policy, or law. |
| Forestry & Natural Resources [http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/fnr](http://nature.berkeley.edu/majors/fnr) | You want to conserve and restore earth's natural resources through hands-on, field-based studies.  
You want to learn about the ecology, stewardship, and management of forest, woodland, and grassland ecosystems.  
You have a passion for topics such as wildlife and conservation biology, forestry (including urban forestry), ecosystem restoration, and fire science.  
You want to participate in an eight-week summer field program in the Sierra Nevada studying ecology, forest, range and wildlife management, measurements, and forest operations and products.  
You would like to have the option of pursuing a professional forestry certification with a well-defined career track, or the option of working in remote sensing or geographic information science. |

To contact our major advisors, please visit [http://nature.berkeley.edu/advising/meet-cnr-advisors](http://nature.berkeley.edu/advising/meet-cnr-advisors)