

# Molecular Environmental Biology

## Bachelor of Science (BS)

The Molecular Environmental Biology (MEB) major is designed to expose students to the organization and function of biological organisms. Molecular approaches are expected to play an increasing role in environmental problem-solving in the near future, and their success will depend upon a sound understanding of biological principles from molecular through ecological levels. The program trains students in the organization and function of biological organisms and their integration into the environment.

## Declaring the Major

Students should refer to the College of Natural Resources website (<https://nature.berkeley.edu/advising/choosing-major>) for all pre-requisite courses and policies, and can meet with peer advisors or academic advisors for full guidance.

- **There is a 3.0 GPA requirement to transfer into the College of Natural Resources from other colleges on campus.**
- **Required pre-requisite courses to declare the Molecular Environmental Biology are: Chemistry 1A/L and 3A/L, one semester of Biology (1A/L or 1B), R1A and R1B, Math 1A/1B or 16A/B or 10A/B**
  - It is recommended to complete the ESPM lower-division core courses.
- Undeclared students must declare a major by the end of their fourth semester. Failure to declare a major by junior standing will result in a registration block, and you will not be able to enroll in any courses until you are declared.
- Current UC Berkeley students who entered as freshmen are expected to be able to graduate in a total of 8 semesters (summers excluded). Exceptions are rarely granted. Students should be progressing in major requirements each semester.
- All major requirements must be taken for a letter grade.
- Both halves of the Reading and Composition requirement must be completed by the end of the fourth semester.
- Transfer students are declared into a major upon admission. Students wishing to change majors and/or colleges must meet with the major advisor (<https://nature.berkeley.edu/node/2951>) for specific guidelines. Transfer students must meet all lower-division requirements and be on track to graduate in a total of four semesters at Berkeley. Transfer students may not apply to transfer colleges or change majors during their first semester, but are strongly encouraged to consult their intended major advisor while planning their schedule for the first semester.

## Honors Program

Students with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.6 or higher may enroll in the College of Natural Resources Honors Program (H196) once they have reached upper division standing. To fulfill the program requirements, students design, conduct, and report on an individual research project working with a faculty sponsor. For further information on registering for the Honors Symposium and on Honors requirements, please see

the College of Natural Resources website ([http://nature.berkeley.edu/site/honors\\_program.php](http://nature.berkeley.edu/site/honors_program.php)).

## Minor Program

There is no minor program in Molecular Environmental Biology.

## Other Majors and Minors Offered by the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management

Conservation and Resource Studies (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2016-17/undergraduate/degree-programs/conservation-resource-studies>) (Major and Minor)

Environmental Sciences (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2016-17/undergraduate/degree-programs/environmental-sciences>) (Major only)

Forestry and Natural Resources (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2016-17/undergraduate/degree-programs/forestry-natural-resources>) (Major and Minor)

Society and Environment (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2016-17/undergraduate/degree-programs/society-environment>) (Major only)

In addition to the University, campus, and college requirements, listed on the College Requirements tab, students must fulfill the below requirements specific to their major program.

## Structure of the MEB Major

The lower division coursework provides a strong foundation in biological principles, and the upper division areas introduce students to the organization and function of biological organisms at the molecular, cellular, organismal, and ecological levels. The major also offers specialization through six Areas of Concentration: (1) animal health and behavior, (2) biodiversity, (3) ecology, (4) environmental and human health, (5) insect biology, and (6) global change biology.

\*\*The curriculum has been revised effective Fall 2016. Students admitted prior to Fall 16 and following the previous curriculum should refer to the 15-16 Guide.

## Lower Division Requirements

### Breadth Requirement

Select courses from L&S "7 Breadth" Categories (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/molecular-environmental-biology/%20http://lsadvise.berkeley.edu/requirements/lsreq.html#7breadth>)

# One course (3-4 units) in *Arts & Literature, Historical Studies, or Philosophy & Values*

# One course (3-4 units) in *Social & Behavioral Sciences or International Studies*

### Reading & Composition Requirement

Students must complete Reading & Composition (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/letters-science/reading-composition-requirement>) by the end of sophomore year.

### ESPM Environmental Science Core

Select one of the following:

ENV SCI 10	Introduction to Environmental Sciences
ESPM 2	The Biosphere
ESPM 6	Environmental Biology

ESPM C10	Environmental Issues	
ESPM 15	Introduction to Environmental Sciences	
<b>ESPM Social Science Core</b>		
Select one of the following:		
ESPM C11	Americans and the Global Forest	4
ESPM C12/ ENGLISH C77	Introduction to Environmental Studies	4
or ESPM 50AC	Introduction to Culture and Natural Resource Management	
or ESPM 60	Environmental Policy, Administration, and Law	
CHEM 1A & 1AL	General Chemistry and General Chemistry Laboratory	4
CHEM 3A & 3AL	Chemical Structure and Reactivity and Organic Chemistry Laboratory	5
CHEM 3B & 3B	Chemical Structure and Reactivity and Chemical Structure and Reactivity	6
BIOLOGY 1A & 1AL	General Biology Lecture and General Biology Laboratory	5
BIOLOGY 1B	General Biology Lecture and Laboratory	4
MATH 16A	Analytic Geometry and Calculus <sup>1</sup>	3
MATH 16B	Analytic Geometry and Calculus <sup>1</sup>	3
PHYSICS 8A	Introductory Physics <sup>2</sup>	4

<sup>1</sup> For students in areas of concentration 2 (Biodiversity), 3 (Ecology), or 5 (Insect Biology/Anthropod Science), MATH 1A and MATH 1B can be substituted for MATH 16A and MATH 16B.

<sup>2</sup> For pre-med students, PHYSICS 8B is required in addition to PHYSICS 8A.

## Upper division Requirements

Select two courses from Area A and two courses from Area B. No more than one course from each category. Also complete the Senior Seminar (ESPM 192) and 12 units in Area of Concentration.

### Area A

#### Biochemistry

MCELLBI 102	Survey of the Principles of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	4
CHEM 135	Chemical Biology	3
MCELLBI 110	Molecular Biology: Macromolecular Synthesis and Cellular Function	4

#### Molecular Biology/Genetics

ESPM 108B	Environmental Change Genetics	3
PLANTBI 160	Plant Molecular Genetics	3
MCELLBI 104	Genetics, Genomics, and Cell Biology	4
INTEGBI 141	Human Genetics	3
INTEGBI 161	Population and Evolutionary Genetics	4
INTEGBI 162	Ecological Genetics	4
INTEGBI 164	Human Genetics and Genomics (lab included)	4
MCELLBI 140	General Genetics	4

#### Cell & Developmental Biology

MCELLBI 130	Cell and Systems Biology	4
MCELLBI 133L	Physiology and Cell Biology Laboratory	4
MCELLBI 137	Course Not Available	3

MCELLBI 141	Developmental Biology	4
PLANTBI C112	General Microbiology	4
PLANTBI C112L	General Microbiology Laboratory	2
PLANTBI 150	Plant Cell Biology	3
PB HLTH 162A	Public Health Microbiology	3
PB HLTH 162L	Public Health Microbiology Laboratory	1

### Area B

#### Organismal Physiology

ESPM 144	Insect Physiology	3
INTEGBI 132	Survey of Human Physiology	4
INTEGBI 140	Biology of Human Reproduction	4
INTEGBI 148	Comparative Animal Physiology	3
INTEGBI 150	Evolutionary Environmental Physiology	3
INTEGBI 151	Plant Physiological Ecology	4
INTEGBI 151L	Plant Physiological Ecology Laboratory	2
MCELLBI 136	Physiology	4
NUSCTX 103	Nutrient Function and Metabolism	3
PLANTBI/ MCELLBI C116	Microbial Diversity	3
PLANTBI 135	Physiology and Biochemistry of Plants	3

#### Organismal Diversity

ESPM 106	American Wildlife: Management and Policy in the 21st Century (lab included)	3
ESPM 108A	Trees: Taxonomy, Growth, and Structures (lab included)	3
ESPM 115B	Biology of Aquatic Insects	2
ESPM 132	Spider Biology (lab included)	4
ESPM C138/ PLANTBI C114/ MCELLBI C114	Introduction to Comparative Virology	4
ESPM 140	General Entomology (lab included)	4
INTEGBI 102LF	Introduction to California Plant Life with Laboratory	4
INTEGBI 103LF	Invertebrate Zoology with Laboratory	5
INTEGBI 104LF	Natural History of the Vertebrates with Laboratory	5
INTEGBI 168 & 168L	Systematics of Vascular Plants and Systematics of Vascular Plants with Laboratory	6
PLANTBI 113	California Mushrooms (lab included)	3
PLANTBI C110L	Biology of Fungi with Laboratory (lab included)	4
PLANTBI/ MCELLBI C116	Microbial Diversity	3
PLANTBI 120 & 120L	Biology of Algae and Laboratory for Biology of Algae	4
<b>Ecology</b>		
ESPM 102A	Terrestrial Resource Ecology (lab included)	4
ESPM 110	Primate Ecology	4
ESPM 111	Ecosystem Ecology	4
ESPM 112	Microbial Ecology	3
ESPM 113	Insect Ecology	3
ESPM 114	Wildlife Ecology	3
ESPM 115C	Fish Ecology (lab included)	3
ESPM 116B	Range Ecology, Improvements, and Management	3
ESPM 116C	Tropical Forest Ecology	3

ESPM 119	Chemical Ecology	2
ESPM 131	Soil Microbial Ecology	3
ESPM 137	Landscape Ecology (Lab included)	3
ESPM/INTEGBI C149	Molecular Ecology	4
INTEGBI 153	Ecology	3
INTEGBI 154 & 154L	Plant Ecology and Plant Ecology Laboratory	5
INTEGBI 154L	Plant Ecology Laboratory	2
INTEGBI 157LF	Ecosystems of California	4
INTEGBI 159	The Living Planet: Impact of the Biosphere on the Earth System	3
INTEGBI 181L	Paleobotany - The 500-Million Year History of a Greening Planet	4

#### Senior Seminar recommended Fall of senior year

ESPM C192	Molecular Approaches to Environmental Problem Solving	2
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## Lab Requirement

Select two upper division courses which include a lab, as part of the Areas A or B or Area of Concentration requirements. Additionally, this requirement may be fulfilled by: (1) One 3-4 unit independent study lab (course numbered H196 or 199); Summer Forestry Field Camp; or the Moorea Field Study course.

## Area of Concentration Requirement

Select 12 units from one concentration below. Up to four independent study units (e.g., ESPM 199, ESPM H196) may be applied to the concentration.

### 1. Animal Health & Behavior

ESPM C103/ INTEGBI C156	Principles of Conservation Biology	4
ESPM 106	American Wildlife: Management and Policy in the 21st Century (lab included)	3
ESPM 110	Primate Ecology	4
ESPM 114	Wildlife Ecology	3
ESPM C126/ INTEGBI C144	Animal Behavior	4
ESPM 142	Insect Behavior	3
ESPM 146L	Medical and Veterinary Entomology Laboratory	1
ESPM 186	Management and Conservation of Rangeland Ecosystems	4
ESPM 188	Case Histories in Wildlife Management	2
INTEGBI 104LF	Natural History of the Vertebrates with Laboratory	5
INTEGBI C143A/ PSYCH C113	Biological Clocks: Physiology and Behavior	3
INTEGBI C143B/ PSYCH C116	Hormones and Behavior	3
INTEGBI 146LF	Behavioral Ecology with Laboratory	5
INTEGBI 148	Comparative Animal Physiology	3
INTEGBI 184L	Morphology of the Vertebrate Skeleton with Laboratory	4
PSYCH 121	Animal Cognition	3

### 2. Biodiversity

ESPM C103/ INTEGBI C156	Principles of Conservation Biology	4
ESPM C105	Natural History Museums and Biodiversity Science	3
ESPM 106	American Wildlife: Management and Policy in the 21st Century (lab included)	3
ESPM 108A	Trees: Taxonomy, Growth, and Structures (lab included)	3
ESPM 115B	Biology of Aquatic Insects	2
ESPM 132	Spider Biology (lab included)	4
ESPM 140	General Entomology (lab included)	4
ESPM 147	Field Entomology ("Ants," "Beetles," and "Spiders" (1 unit each) SP. All three courses must be completed to equal one "lab course")	1
INTEGBI 102LF	Introduction to California Plant Life with Laboratory	4
INTEGBI 103LF	Invertebrate Zoology with Laboratory	5
INTEGBI 104LF	Natural History of the Vertebrates with Laboratory	5
INTEGBI 160	Evolution	4
INTEGBI 166	Evolutionary Biogeography	4
INTEGBI 168 & 168L	Systematics of Vascular Plants and Systematics of Vascular Plants with Laboratory	6
INTEGBI 173LF	Mammalogy with Laboratory	5
INTEGBI 174LF	Ornithology with Laboratory	4
INTEGBI 175LF	Herpetology with Laboratory	4
INTEGBI 183L	Evolution of the Vertebrates with Laboratory	4
PLANTBI C110L	Biology of Fungi with Laboratory	4
PLANTBI 113	California Mushrooms	3
PLANTBI/ MCELLBI C116	Microbial Diversity	3
PLANTBI 120 & 120L	Biology of Algae and Laboratory for Biology of Algae	4

### 3. Ecology

ESPM 105A	Sierra Nevada Ecology	4
ESPM 102A	Terrestrial Resource Ecology	4
ESPM C103/ INTEGBI C156	Principles of Conservation Biology	4
ESPM 110	Primate Ecology	4
ESPM C104/ ENVECON C115	Modeling and Management of Biological Resources	4
ESPM 111	Ecosystem Ecology	4
ESPM 112	Microbial Ecology	3
ESPM 113	Insect Ecology	3
ESPM 114	Wildlife Ecology	3
ESPM 115B	Biology of Aquatic Insects	2
ESPM 115C	Fish Ecology	3
ESPM 116B	Range Ecology, Improvements, and Management	3
ESPM 116C	Tropical Forest Ecology	3
ESPM 117	Urban Garden Ecosystems	4
ESPM 118	Agricultural Ecology	4
ESPM 119	Chemical Ecology	2
ESPM C130/ GEOG C136	Terrestrial Hydrology	4

ESPM 131	Soil Microbial Ecology	3
ESPM 134	Fire, Insects, and Diseases in Forest Ecosystems	3
ESPM 146L	Medical and Veterinary Entomology Laboratory	1
ESPM 147	Field Entomology	1
ESPM/INTEGBI C149	Molecular Ecology	4
ESPM 152	Global Change Biology	3
ESPM 172	Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing	3
ESPM 173	Introduction to Ecological Data Analysis	3
ESPM 174	Design and Analysis of Ecological Research	4
ESPM C180	Air Pollution	3
ESPM 181A	Fire Ecology	3
ESPM 188	Case Histories in Wildlife Management	2
PLANTBI 180	Environmental Plant Biology	2
INTEGBI 102LF	Introduction to California Plant Life with Laboratory	4
INTEGBI 151	Plant Physiological Ecology	4
INTEGBI 153	Ecology	3
INTEGBI 154 & 154L	Plant Ecology and Plant Ecology Laboratory	5
INTEGBI C155/ ANTHRO C129D	Holocene Paleocology: How Humans Changed the Earth	3

#### 4. Environment & Human Health

ANTHRO 135	Paleoethnobotany: Archaeological Methods and Laboratory Techniques (lab included)	4
ESPM C126/ INTEGBI C144	Animal Behavior	4
ESPM C138/ PLANTBI C114/ MCELLBI C114	Introduction to Comparative Virology	4
ESPM C148/ NUSCTX C114	Pesticide Chemistry and Toxicology	3
ESPM 152	Global Change Biology	3
ESPM 158	Biodiversity Conservation in Working Landscapes	4
ESPM/NUSCTX C159	Human Diet	4
ESPM 162	Bioethics and Society	4
ESPM C167	Environmental Health and Development	4
INTEGBI 116L	Medical Parasitology	4
INTEGBI 117	Medical Ethnobotany	2
INTEGBI 117LF	Medical Ethnobotany Laboratory	2
INTEGBI 131	General Human Anatomy	3
INTEGBI 131L	General Human Anatomy Laboratory	2
INTEGBI 137	Human Endocrinology	4
INTEGBI 140	Biology of Human Reproduction	4
INTEGBI C143A/ PSYCH C113	Biological Clocks: Physiology and Behavior	3
INTEGBI C143B/ PSYCH C116	Hormones and Behavior	3
MCELLBI 135A	Topics in Cell and Developmental Biology: Molecular Endocrinology	3
MCELLBI 150	Molecular Immunology	4
MCELLBI 165	Neurobiology of Disease	3
NUSCTX 103	Nutrient Function and Metabolism	3

NUSCTX 108A	Introduction and Application of Food Science	3
NUSCTX 110	Toxicology	4
NUSCTX 160	Metabolic Bases of Human Health and Diseases	4
NUSCTX 166	Nutrition in the Community	3
PLANTBI/ MCELLBI C103	Bacterial Pathogenesis	3
PLANTBI 180	Environmental Plant Biology	2
PB HLTH 103	Course Not Available	
PB HLTH 104A	Health Promotion in a College Setting	2
PB HLTH 105	Course Not Available	
PB HLTH 116	Seminar on Social, Political, and Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine	3
PB HLTH 150B	Introduction to Environmental Health Sciences	3
PSYCH 110	Introduction to Biological Psychology	3

#### 5. Insect Biology/Arthropod Science

ESPM 140	General Entomology (ESPM 140 required for Insect Biology concentration.)	4
ESPM C105	Natural History Museums and Biodiversity Science	3
ESPM 113	Insect Ecology	3
ESPM 132	Spider Biology	4
ESPM 134	Fire, Insects, and Diseases in Forest Ecosystems	3
ESPM 142	Insect Behavior	3
ESPM 144	Insect Physiology	3
ESPM 147	Field Entomology	1
ESPM C148	Pesticide Chemistry and Toxicology	3
ESPM 172	Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing	3

#### 6. Global Change Biology

CIV ENG 107	Climate Change Mitigation	3
ECON C102	Natural Resource Economics	4
ENE,RES 101	Ecology and Society	3
ENE,RES 102	Quantitative Aspects of Global Environmental Problems	4
ENVECON C175	The Economics of Climate Change	4
EPS 102	History and Evolution of Planet Earth	4
EPS 115	Stratigraphy and Earth History	4
ESPM 152	Global Change Biology	3
ESPM C167	Environmental Health and Development	4
ESPM C170	Carbon Cycle Dynamics	3
GEOG 142	Climate Dynamics	4
GEOG 143	Global Change Biogeochemistry	3
GEOG C139	Atmospheric Physics and Dynamics	3
INTEGBI 154	Plant Ecology	3
INTEGBI 154L	Plant Ecology Laboratory	2
INTEGBI 159	The Living Planet: Impact of the Biosphere on the Earth System	3
LD ARCH 110	Ecological Analysis	3
LD ARCH 110L	Ecological Analysis Laboratory	2
LD ARCH C188	Geographic Information Systems	4
PLANTBI 122	Bioenergy	2
PLANTBI 180	Environmental Plant Biology	2
UGIS 162E	Political Science: Environmental Policymaking and the Politics of Climate Change	4



UGIS 176B	Green Governance	4
ANTHRO C129D	Holocene Paleocology: How Humans Changed the Earth	3

## General Guidelines

1. All courses taken to fulfill the major requirements below must be taken for graded credit, other than courses listed which are offered on a *Pass/No Pass* basis only. Other exceptions to this requirement are noted as applicable.
2. A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 is required.
3. A minimum GPA of 2.0 in upper division major requirements is required.
4. At least 15 of the 36 required upper division units must be taken in the College of Natural Resources (except for students majoring in Environmental Economics and Policy; please see the EEP major adviser for further information).
5. A maximum of 16 units of Independent Study (courses numbered 97, 98, 99, 197, 198, and 199) may count toward graduation, with a maximum of 4 units of Independent Study per semester.
6. No more than 1/3 of the total units attempted at UC Berkeley may be taken *Pass/No Pass*. This includes units in the Education Abroad Program and UC Intercampus Visitor or Exchange Programs.
7. A maximum of 4 units of Physical Education courses will count toward graduation.

Reading and Composition (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/natural-resources/reading-composition-requirement>)

In order to provide a solid foundation in reading, writing and critical thinking all majors in the College require two semesters of lower division work in composition. Students must complete a first-level reading and composition course by the end of their second semester and a second-level course by the end of their fourth semester.

Foreign Language (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/natural-resources/foreign-language-requirement>) : **EEP Majors only**

The Foreign Language requirement is only required by Environmental Economics and Policy (EEP) majors. It may be satisfied by demonstrating proficiency in reading comprehension, writing, and conversation in a foreign language equivalent to the second semester college level, either by passing an exam or by completing approved course work.

Quantitative Reasoning (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/natural-resources/quantitative-reasoning-requirement>) : **EEP Majors only**

The Quantitative Reasoning requirement is only required by Environmental Economics and Policy (EEP) majors. The requirement may be satisfied by exam or by taking an approved course.

## Undergraduate Breadth

Undergraduate breadth provide Berkeley students with a rich and varied educational experience outside of their major program. Breadth courses are built into CNR major requirements. The EEP major is the only CNR major that requires the entire 7 course breadth. As the foundation of

a liberal arts education, breadth courses give students a view into the intellectual life of the University while introducing them to a multitude of perspectives and approaches to research and scholarship. Engaging students in new disciplines and with peers from other majors, the breadth experience strengthens interdisciplinary connections and context that prepares Berkeley graduates to understand and solve the complex issues of their day.

## High School Exam Credit

CNR students may apply high school exam credit (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, A-Level Exam) towards many College and Major Requirements. See AP Exam Equivalency Chart and Higher Level IB Exam Equivalency Chart in the CNR Student Handbook (<https://nature.berkeley.edu/handbook>) for more information.

## Units Requirements

Students must complete at least 120 semester units of courses subject to certain guidelines:

- At least 36 units must be upper division courses, including a minimum of 15 units of upper division courses in the College of Natural Resources.
- A maximum of 16 units of Special Studies coursework (courses numbered 97, 98, 99, 197, 198, or 199) is allowed towards the 120 units; a maximum of four is allowed in a given semester.
- A maximum of 4 units of Physical Education from any school attended will count towards the 120 units.
- Students may receive unit credit for courses graded P (including P/ NP units taken through EAP) up to a limit of one-third of the total units taken and passed on the Berkeley campus at the time of graduation.

## Semester Unit Minimum

All CNR students must enroll in at least 13 units each fall and spring semester.

## Semester Unit Maximum

To request permission to take more than 19.5 units in a semester, please see the major adviser.

## Semester Limit

Students admitted as freshmen must graduate within 8 fall/spring semesters at UC Berkeley. Students admitted as transfer students must graduate within 4 fall/spring semesters at UC Berkeley. Students who go on EAP and UCDC can petition for additional semesters. Summer session, UC Extension and non-UC study abroad programs do not count towards this semester limit. Students approved for double majors or simultaneous degrees in two colleges may be granted an additional semester. CNR does not limit the number of total units a student can accrue.

## Senior Residence Requirement

After reaching senior status (90 semester units earned), students must complete at least 24 of the remaining 30 units in at least two semesters in residence at the College of Natural Resources. To count as residence, a semester must consist of at least four passed units. Inter-campus Visitor, Education Abroad Program, UC Berkeley Washington Program, and UC Berkeley Extension units do not count toward this requirement.

Students may use Summer Session to satisfy one semester of the Senior Residence Requirement, provided that four units of coursework are completed.

## Modified Senior Residence Requirement

Participants in the UC Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) or the UC Berkeley Washington Program may meet a modified Senior Residence Requirement by completing 24 of their final 60 semester units in residence (excluding UCEAP). At least 12 of these 24 units must be completed after senior status is reached.

Most students automatically fulfill the residence requirement by attending classes here for four years. In general, there is no need to be concerned about this requirement, unless students go abroad for a semester or year or want to take courses at another institution or through University Extension during their senior year. In these cases, students should make an appointment to see an adviser to determine how they can meet the Senior Residence Requirement.

## Grade Requirements

- A 2.0 UC GPA is required for graduation.
- A 2.0 average in all upper division courses required of the major program is required for graduation.

## Mission

Molecular Environmental Biology (MEB) focuses on biological organisms and the hierarchy of life, from molecules and genes through cells, organisms, communities and ecosystems. The breadth of this biological science program provides an important perspective for students who have a passion for biology and are interested in the application of biological principles to understand how organisms function in their environment. Also a pre-medical or pre-health science major, the discipline offers an array of six areas of concentration within biology: microbiology, animal health and behavior, insect biology, ecology, biodiversity, and environmental and human health.

## Learning Goals for the Major

1. Holistic interdisciplinary thinking, that understanding the "big picture"
  - a. Interdisciplinarity: The ability to understand and work across different disciplines
  - b. Multiple processes: Recognition that biology and the environment involve multiple processes as do solutions to modern problems
  - c. Interconnectedness: Understanding that biology and the environment are interconnected at many spatial, temporal, and hierarchical levels
  - d. Global and international approaches: Appreciating that the environment is necessarily global in nature and solutions to problems require international approaches
2. Training in the hierarchy of biology
  - a. Fundamentals of Science: Training in the cores areas of physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics
  - b. Quantitative skills: Necessary tools for addressing biological problems
  - c. Biochemistry: An understanding of the fundamentals of biological chemistry including the properties of intermediary metabolites, the structure and function of biological macromolecules, and the logic of basis of genetics and gene expression
  - d. Molecular biology/Genetics: The molecular biology of bacterial, archaeal and eukaryotic cells and their viruses, mechanisms of DNA replication, transcription, translation, nuclear and organellar genome structure and function and regulation of gene expression heritability, measures of selection, etc.
3. Analysis and application for students that choose the Animal Health & Behavior area of concentration
  - a. Interaction of health and environment: Understanding how the environment, whether internal or external, affects organism health and behavior
  - b. Expertise in health: Examination of the health of organisms from either physiological or environmental perspectives
  - c. Epizootics: An appreciation of the potential for diseases in animal populations to spill over into humans as is the case in avian influenza or even the origins of HIV
4. Analysis and application for students that choose the Biodiversity area of concentration
  - a. Biodiversity science: Detailed understanding of morphological and ecological diversity of a given organismic lineage
  - b. Origins and evolution of life: Basic understanding of systematics and phylogenetics
  - c. Quantifying biology: Knowledge of various sampling and species identification techniques to collect data
  - d. Informatics: Proficiency in database development and management
5. Analysis and application for students that choose the Ecology area of concentration
  - a. Principles of Ecology: Detailed understanding of ecological principles including energy flow, hydrologic, and mineral cycles, factors limiting species distribution and population size, and characteristics of species, populations, and communities
  - b. Ecological interactions: Interactions relevant to different organismic groups.
  - c. Biodiversity: Understanding of the biology of communities and ecosystems.
6. Analysis and application for students that choose the Environment & Human Health area of concentration.
  - a. Interaction of health and environment: Understanding of how the environment affects human health and well-being.

- b. Disease: Environmental epidemiology and the impacts of disease.
  - c. Diet: Effects of nutrition and diet on human health.
- 7. Analysis and application for students who choose the Insect Biology area of concentration.
  - a. Insects and biodiversity science: Understanding of major insects groups, relationships, and diversity.
  - b. Insects and environmental science: Knowledge of the impacts of insects (positive and negative) in the environment.
  - c. Quantifying insects and biology: Skills in collecting and identifying insects.
- 8. Analysis and application for students who choose the Microbiology area of concentration.
  - a. Microbiology expertise: Expertise and competence in processes, patterns in microbiology, and the role of microbes in ecosystem function.
  - b. Biodiversity: Understanding of microbial genetic and functional diversity, ecological factors impacting microbial spatial and temporal distribution.
  - c. Microbiology and the environment: Microbiology in environmental science, including impacts on human health & well-being.
- 9. Basic skills in research, analysis, communication.
  - a. Reading carefully: Ability to read for detail and comprehension.
  - b. Writing accurately: Ability to write succinctly, clearly, with coherence.
  - c. Thinking critically: Critical thinking through the exposure and synthesis of biological knowledge from courses and lab work.
  - d. Using theoretical and empirical knowledge: Ability to synthesize and apply information obtained through theory and observations.
  - e. Quantitative skills: Obtaining the quantitative skills necessary for the subdisciplines.
  - f. Analysis: Ability to perceive, tackle, and solve problems in environmental science.
  - g. Research experience: Research experience to practice scientific approaches and methods. Work with a faculty mentor while participating in an undergraduate research program or designing an individual research project. Share research results or work in progress in the form of a paper, report, research poster, or public presentation.
  - h. Communication: Strong communication skills, both written and verbal, to prepare for independent research work or team projects.
- 10. Lifetime skills.
  - a. Continuing appreciation for biological systems: To develop a passion for biology and its interconnections with the environment.
  - b. Representing science: To become an advocate for the training and knowledge of science, particularly the biological disciplines.

**Undergraduate Adviser, Molecular Environmental Biology**

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In the College of Natural Resources, we provide holistic, individual advising services to prospective and current students who are pursuing major and minors in our college. We assist with a range of topics including course selection, academic decision-making, achieving personal and academic goals, and maximizing the Berkeley experience.

If you are looking to explore your options, or you are ready to declare a major, double major, or minor, contact the undergraduate adviser for your intended major. Visit our website (<https://nature.berkeley.edu/advising/meet-cnr-advisors>) to explore all of our advising services.