



UC Riverside

Cell Biology

Biological Sciences, B.S.

Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology Track

Major Description

Biological Sciences is an interdepartmental major that includes faculty (more than 150) from seven departments in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. The major offers the Bachelor of Science degree and is unified by the Life Sciences core curriculum, which students complete as lower-division coursework.

For advanced study in the junior and senior years, students select an area of specialization (track) from the nine that are now available: bioinformatics and genomics; biology; cell, molecular and developmental biology; conservation biology; evolution and ecology; environmental toxicology; medical biology; microbiology; and plant biology. Each track provides the opportunity to combine broad basic training in biological sciences with an emphasis in an area of particular interest to the student. Both the name of the major (Biological Sciences) and the track are included on the official transcript.

The track structure allows flexibility to incorporate new faculty and research areas so students can prepare for graduate study and careers in emerging fields of biology.

Starting Your Cell Biology Degree

Lower-Division Major Requirements in Cell Biology

From UC's perspective, community college is where you begin working on the first two years of your bachelor's degree. This includes taking lower-division coursework specifically related to your field of study that may be applied toward graduation in your major.

Listed below are the lower-division requirements for **Biological Sciences, B.S., cell, molecular and developmental biology track**, that may be satisfied with approved community college courses unless otherwise noted. To find out which of these requirements are shared by other UC campuses, see the UC Statewide Transfer Preparation Path in Cell Biology.

- General Biology (full sequence for Biological Science majors)
- General Chemistry (full sequence)
- Organic Chemistry (full sequence)
- Calculus (full sequence)
- Calculus-based Physics (full sequence)

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

All of these requirements do not necessarily have to be completed **before** you transfer. See the next section of this path for what you must do to be competitive for admission.

FIND YOUR COURSES

Every course at your community college that can be used to meet any of the lower-division major requirements is listed at

www.assist.org

Becoming Competitive for Admission to Cell Biology

Selection Requirements

Important information on selection requirements for admission to the major, including what this campus advises applicants to complete—and by when and with what GPA—is outlined below. It is important to note that meeting these requirements does not necessarily guarantee admission to the campus or major. The stronger your major preparation, the more competitive you will be.

- You **must** complete General Chemistry (full sequence) and at least two of the following sequences in the recommended priority as listed: Calculus, General Biology (for Biological Science majors), Organic Chemistry, Calculus-based Physics with laboratory. You **must** earn a grade of C or higher in each course.
- If General Biology (for Biological Science majors) is not available at your community college, you are **strongly** recommended to complete Organic Chemistry and take Biology at UCR after transfer.
- You **must** have an overall GPA of 2.7 or higher in all UC-transferable courses.

Satisfying General Education in Cell Biology

General Education Requirements

While all UC campuses urge you to focus on your lower-division major requirements while in community college, it is important to remember that general education (GE), or “breadth,” requirements for your bachelor’s degree may also be met with approved community college courses. In fact, some majors require completion of lower-division GE coursework as part of your preparation prior to transfer. The good news is you may be able to double-count some of your lower-division major coursework for related GE requirements.

The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) is a series of courses at California community colleges that students may complete to satisfy GE requirements. Certain students, however, may not be well served by following this GE option. Specific information about satisfying GE requirements as a Biological Sciences major (cell, molecular and developmental biology track) is listed below.

- Completion of lower-division major-preparation courses should take precedence over completion of GE/breadth requirements. GE/breadth requirements do not need to be completed prior to transfer.
- If time permits after completing major-preparation courses, you should choose courses from the UCR GE/breadth pattern for the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.
- IGETC is not an acceptable way to complete GE/breadth requirements for this major.

Related Majors

Preparation for the following majors may be similar to the Biological Sciences major described above (consult the campus catalog and www.assist.org).

- Biochemistry, B.A. and B.S.
- Biology, B.A. and B.S.
- Entomology, B.A. and B.S.
- Neuroscience, B.A. and B.S.
- Plant Biology, B.A. and B.S.