

BIOTECHNOLOGY, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Every living organism, from the smallest and most primitive bacteria to every plant, insect, animal or human being, contains DNA as the primary genetic material. DNA directs all cellular processes, creating the incredible variety and diversity of living organisms in the biosphere. Biotechnology focuses on the mechanics of life processes and their application. Biotechnology means "life technology" and represents an integrated, multidisciplinary field, with a profound impact today on almost every aspect of human endeavor.

Preparatory Requirements

UC Davis students who wish to change their major to Biotechnology must complete the following courses (representing the subject areas of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, and Mathematics) with a grade point average of at least 2.500 in each subject area. All of these courses must be taken for a letter grade:

Code	Title	Units
Biological Sciences		
BIS 002A & BIS 002B & BIS 002C	Introduction to Biology: Essentials of Life on Earth and Introduction to Biology: Principles of Ecology & Evolution and Introduction to Biology: Biodiversity & the Tree of Life	15
Chemistry		
One series:		15
CHE 002A & CHE 002B & CHE 002C	General Chemistry and General Chemistry and General Chemistry	
CHE 003A & CHE 003B & CHE 003C	Chemistry for Life Sciences: Determining Structure & Predicting Properties and Chemistry for Life Sciences: Predicting & Characterizing Chemical Change and Chemistry for Life Sciences: Controlling Processes & Synthetic Pathways	
Mathematics		
One series:		6-8
MAT 016A & MAT 016B DISCONTINUED	and (Discontinued) ¹	
MAT 017A & MAT 017B	Calculus for Biology & Medicine and Calculus for Biology & Medicine	
MAT 019A & MAT 019B	Calculus for Data-Driven Applications and Calculus for Data-Driven Applications	
MAT 021A & MAT 021B	Calculus and Calculus	

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MAT 016A & MAT 016B are discontinued.

The Program

In the first two years, students develop a strong and general background in biological science with an emphasis on fundamental concepts and basic principles of genetics, molecular biology and cell biology. Four options, Animal Biotechnology, Plant Biotechnology, Fermentation/Microbial Biotechnology, and Bioinformatics, provide in-depth training and specialized knowledge in an aspect of biotechnology. Each option has a strong laboratory component to reinforce the theoretical concepts. Students also do an internship in a biotechnology company or university or government laboratory.

Internships & Career Opportunities

In the last decade, more industries are turning to biotechnology to solve problems and improve products, creating a growing job market for individuals trained in biotechnology in the agricultural, food and beverage, health care, chemical, pharmaceutical and biochemical, and environmental and bioremediation industries.

Graduates trained in the technologies designed for biotechnology will find their training applicable to advanced research in molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry, and the plant and animal sciences.

Lead Faculty Advisor

Diane Beckles in 133 Asmundson Hall (<https://www.plantsciences.ucdavis.edu/people/diane-beckles/>)

Faculty includes members of the Departments of Animal Science; Engineering: Chemical Engineering & Materials Science; Computer Science; Engineering: Biological & Agricultural; Food Science & Technology; Land, Air, & Water Resources; Plant Pathology; Plant Sciences; Viticulture & Enology; and the College of Biological Sciences.

Major Advisor

Advising Center for the major is located in 1220 Plant & Environmental Sciences; plsadvising@ucdavis.edu.

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Biotechnology Bachelor of Science is 114.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
<i>Biological Science</i>		
BIS 002A	Introduction to Biology: Essentials of Life on Earth	15
BIS 002B	Introduction to Biology: Principles of Ecology & Evolution	
BIS 002C	Introduction to Biology: Biodiversity & the Tree of Life	
<i>Biotechnology</i>		
BIT 001Y	Introduction to Biotechnology	5
BIT 091	Undergraduate Seminars in Biotechnology	
<i>Chemistry</i>		
002 series:		21-27

CHE 002A & CHE 002B & CHE 002C	General Chemistry and General Chemistry and General Chemistry	UWP 104D	Writing in the Professions: Elementary & Secondary Education
Choose CHE 008 series or 118 series or 128 series & 129A:		UWP 104E	Writing in the Professions: Science
CHE 008A & CHE 008B	Organic Chemistry: Brief Course and Organic Chemistry: Brief Course	UWP 104F	Writing in the Professions: Health or UWP 104FV
OR		or UWP 104FY	Writing in the Professions: Health Writing in the Professions: Health
CHE 118A & CHE 118B & CHE 118C	Organic Chemistry for Health & Life Sciences and Organic Chemistry for Health & Life Sciences and Organic Chemistry for Health & Life Sciences	UWP 104T	Writing in the Professions: Technical Writing
OR			Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal 63-71
CHE 128A & CHE 128B & CHE 128C	Organic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry	Depth Subject Matter	
CHE 129A	Organic Chemistry Laboratory	<i>Biological Science</i>	10-17
Mathematics		BIS 101 or BIS 101V	Genes & Gene Expression Genes & Gene Expression
Choose a series:	6-8	BIS 104	Cell Biology
MAT 016A & MAT 016B DISCONTINUED FOR SPRING 2025 **	and (Discontinued for spring 2025 **) **	Choose BIS 105, or BIS 102 & BIS 103, or ABI 102 & ABI 103:	
MAT 017A & MAT 017B	Calculus for Biology & Medicine and Calculus for Biology & Medicine	BIS 105	Biomolecules & Metabolism
MAT 019A & MAT 019B	Calculus for Data-Driven Applications and Calculus for Data-Driven Applications	OR	
MAT 021A & MAT 021B	Calculus and Calculus	BIS 102 & BIS 103	Structure & Function of Biomolecules and Bioenergetics & Metabolism
Physics	8	ABI 102 & ABI 103	Animal Biochemistry & Metabolism and Animal Biochemistry & Metabolism
PHY 007A	General Physics	Biotechnology	3
PHY 007B	General Physics	BIT 171	Professionalism & Ethics in Genomics & Biotechnology
Choose one:	4	Microbiology	3
PLS 120	Applied Statistics in Agricultural Sciences	MMG 102 or MIC 102 DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2026 **	
STA 100	Applied Statistics for Biological Sciences	Molecular & Cellular Biology	3
Choose one:	4	MCB 121	Advanced Molecular Biology
May overlap with the English Composition Requirement; may be waived by passing the upper division composition exam.		Internship or Independent Research	
UWP 101 or UWP 101V or UWP 101Y	Advanced Composition Advanced Composition Advanced Composition	Must be approved by major advisor	
UWP 102A	Writing in the Disciplines: Special Topics	Choose one:	3
UWP 102B	Writing in the Disciplines: Biology	BIT 189L	Laboratory Research in Genomics & Biotechnology
UWP 102D	Writing in the Disciplines: International Relations	BIT 192	Internship in Biotechnology
UWP 102E	Writing in the Disciplines: Engineering	BIT 199	Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates
UWP 102F	Writing in the Disciplines: Food Science & Technology	The following two courses are optional:	
UWP 102G	Writing in the Disciplines: Environmental Writing	BIT/PLS 188	Undergraduate Research Proposal
UWP 104A or UWP 104AV or UWP 104AY	Writing in the Professions: Business Writing Writing in the Professions: Business Writing Writing in the Professions: Business Writing	BIT 194H	Honors Thesis in Biotechnology
UWP 104B	Writing in the Professions: Law	Depth Subject Matter Subtotal	22-29
UWP 104C	Writing in the Professions: Journalism	Areas of Specialization	
		Choose one:	29-31
		Fermentation/Microbiology Biotechnology Option (p. 3)	
		Plant Biotechnology Option (p. 3)	
		Animal Biotechnology Option (p. 4)	
		Bioinformatics Option (p. 5)	
		Areas of Specialization Subtotal	29-31
		Total Units	114-131

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

Fermentation/Microbiology Biotechnology Option

Code	Title	Units
Fermentation/Microbiology Biotechnology Option		
BIT 161A or MCB 160L	Genetics & Biotechnology Laboratory Principles of Genetics Laboratory	5-6
FST 104L	Food Microbiology Laboratory or MIC 104L DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2026 ** or MMG 107L	3-4
Choose one:		3
MIC 140	(Discontinued for spring 2024) **	
MIC 150	(Discontinued for winter 2025) **	
MMG 115	Recombinant DNA Cloning & Analysis or MIC 115 DISCONTINUED FOR WINTER 2025 **	
MMG 120	Microbial Ecology or MIC 120 DISC	
MMG 170	Yeast Molecular Genetics or MIC 170 DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2025 **	
PLP 130	Fungal Biology & Disease or MIC 170 DISC	

AND

Choose one from the previous list or below:	3
BIS 181	Comparative Genomics
BIS 183	Functional Genomics
MCB 182	Principles of Genomics

Restricted Electives

Choose 15 units:	15
BIS 132	(Discontinued for spring 2021) **
BIS 181	Comparative Genomics
BIS 183	Functional Genomics
BIT 150	Applied Bioinformatics
BIT 161B	Plant Genetics & Biotechnology Laboratory
BIT 188	Undergraduate Research Proposal
CHE 107A	Physical Chemistry for the Life Sciences
CHE 107B	Physical Chemistry for the Life Sciences
CHE 130A	Principles of Medicinal Chemistry
CHE 130B	Computational Drug Design
ECH 161C	Biotechnology Facility Design & Regulatory Compliance
ECH 161L	Bioprocess Engineering Laboratory
ECS 124	Theory & Practice of Bioinformatics
ECS 129	Computational Structural Bioinformatics
EVE 100	Introduction to Evolution
FST 102A	Malting & Brewing Science
FST 102B	Practical Malting & Brewing
FST 104	Food Microbiology
FST 104L	Food Microbiology Laboratory
FST 110	Food Processing
FST/VEN 114	Fermented Foods
FST 123	Introduction to Enzymology
FST 123L	Enzymology Laboratory

MCB 120L	Molecular Biology & Biochemistry Laboratory
MCB 182	Principles of Genomics
MCB 164	(Discontinued for spring 2025) **
MIC 105	Microbial Diversity (Discontinued for fall 2026) **
MIC 105L	Microbial Diversity Laboratory (Discontinued for fall 2026) **
MIC 140	(Discontinued for spring 2024) **
MIC 150	(Discontinued for winter 2025) **
MIC 155L	(Discontinued for spring 2023) **
MMG 115	Recombinant DNA Cloning & Analysis ** or MIC 115 DISCONTINUED FOR WINTER 2025 **
MMG 120	Microbial Ecology or MIC 120 DISC
MMG 162	General Virology or MIC 162 DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2024 **
MMG 170	Yeast Molecular Genetics or MIC 170 DISC
PLP 130	Fungal Biology & Disease
PLP 140	(Discontinued for spring 2022) **
PLS 174	Microbiology & Safety of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
VEN 124	Wine Production
VEN 124L	Wine Production Laboratory
VEN 128	Wine Microbiology
VEN 135	Wine Technology & Winery Systems

Total Units 29-31

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

Plant Biotechnology Option

Code	Title	Units
Plant Biotechnology Option		
Biotechnology		
BIT 160	Principles of Plant Biotechnology	
BIT 161A	Genetics & Biotechnology Laboratory	
BIT 161B	Plant Genetics & Biotechnology Laboratory	
Microbiology		
MMG 103L	or MIC 103L DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2026 **	2
Molecular & Cellular Biology		
MCB/PLB 126	Plant Biochemistry	3
Plant Science		
PLS 152	Plant Genetics	4
Restricted Electives		
Choose 9 units:		9
BIS 181	Comparative Genomics	
BIS 183	Functional Genomics	
BIT 150	Applied Bioinformatics	
BIT 188	Undergraduate Research Proposal	
CHE 130A	Principles of Medicinal Chemistry	

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

Animal Biotechnology Option

Code	Title	Units
Animal Biotechnology Option		
<i>Animal Genetics</i>		4
ANG 111	Molecular Biology Laboratory Techniques	
<i>Animal Science</i>		
ANS 170	Ethics of Animal Use	4
<i>Microbiology</i>		
MMG 103L		2
or MIC 103L DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2026 **		
<i>Molecular & Cellular Biology</i>		
MCB 150	Developmental Biology	6-7
or MCB 163	Developmental Genetics	
MCB 182	Principles of Genomics	
<i>Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior</i>		
NPB 101	Systemic Physiology	5
<i>Restricted Electives</i>		
Choose 9 units:		
ANG 101	Animal Cytogenetics	9
ANG 107	Genetics & Animal Breeding	
ANS 131	Reproduction & Early Development in Aquatic Animals	
ANS 140	Management of Laboratory Animals	
AVS 103	Avian Development & Genomics	
AVS 121	Avian Reproduction	
BIS 181	Comparative Genomics	
BIS 183	Functional Genomics	
BIT 150	Applied Bioinformatics	
BIT 161A	Genetics & Biotechnology Laboratory	
BIT 161B	Plant Genetics & Biotechnology Laboratory	
BIT 188	Undergraduate Research Proposal	
EVE 100	Introduction to Evolution	
EVE 102	Population & Quantitative Genetics	
MCB 120	Molecular Biology & Biochemistry Laboratory Associated Lecture	
MCB 160L	Principles of Genetics Laboratory	
MCB 164	(Discontinued for spring 2025) **	
MCP 200L	Animal Cell Culture Laboratory	
MMG 115	Recombinant DNA Cloning & Analysis	
or MIC 115 DISCONTINUED FOR WINTER 2025 **		
MMG 162	General Virology	
or MIC 162 DISC		
MMI 188	(Discontinued for fall 2021) **	
NPB 121	Physiology of Reproduction	
NPB 121L	Physiology of Reproduction Laboratory	

NPB 132	Nature vs. Nurture: Physiological Interactions Among Genes, Nutrients & Health	ECS 140A	Programming Languages
PLP 140	(Discontinued for spring 2025) **	ECS 150	Operating Systems & System Programming
PMI 126	Fundamentals of Immunology (Discontinued for spring 2022) **	ECS 154A	Computer Architecture
PMI 126L	Immunology Laboratory	EVE 100	Introduction to Evolution
PMI 127	Medical Bacteria & Fungi	EVE 102	Population & Quantitative Genetics
PMI 128	Biology of Animal Viruses	EVE 103	Phylogeny, Speciation & Macroevolution
Total Units	30-31	EVE 131	Human Genetic Variation & Evolution
		EVE 161	Microbial Phylogenomics; Genomic Perspectives on the Diversity & Diversification of Microbes

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

Bioinformatics Option

Code	Title	Units
Bioinformatics Option		
<i>Biological Science</i>		3
BIS 181	Comparative Genomics	
or BIS 183	Functional Genomics	
<i>Biotechnology</i>		4
BIT 150	Applied Bioinformatics	
Choose one:		4-5
BIS 180L	Genomics Laboratory	
ECS 124	Theory & Practice of Bioinformatics	
ECS 129	Computational Structural Bioinformatics	
<i>Computer Science Engineering</i>		4
ECS 032A	Introduction to Programming	
or ECS 032AV	Introduction to Programming	
<i>Microbiology</i>		2
MMG 103L		
or MIC 103L DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2026 **		
<i>Molecular & Cellular Biology</i>		3
MCB 182	Principles of Genomics	
<i>Restricted Electives</i>		
Choose 9 units:		9
ANG 212	Sequence Analysis in Molecular Genetics	
BIS 132	(Discontinued for spring 2021) **	
BIS 134	(Discontinued for winter 2024) **	
BIS 181	Comparative Genomics	
BIS 183	Functional Genomics	
BIT 188	Undergraduate Research Proposal	
EAD 289D	Special Topics in Applied Science: Biophotonics/Biotechnology	
ECS 020	Discrete Mathematics For Computer Science	
ECS 032B	Introduction to Data Structures	
ECS 034	Software Development in UNIX & C++	
ECS 050	Computer Organization & Machine-Dependent Programming	
ECS 122A	Algorithm Design & Analysis	
ECS 124	Theory & Practice of Bioinformatics	
ECS 129	Computational Structural Bioinformatics	

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.