

Planning to transfer to Cal and major in MCB?

General Information for Transfer Students

Every year, the Molecular and Cell Biology (MCB) department welcomes more than 75 transfer students from around California and across the country to the MCB major. Transfer students are active members of the MCB community, getting involved in research experiences, student organizations, and other activities that complement the rigorous academic program of MCB.

MCB accepts transferable coursework from most accredited colleges and universities. Students hoping to transfer to UC Berkeley with the intention of declaring MCB should plan to complete all lower division prerequisite courses at their transfer institution. Failure to complete the lower division requirements prior to enrolling at UC Berkeley may impact your admission to the University.

If you are admitted without having fully completed a specific series at the transfer institution, you may not have sufficient background to take the remaining equivalent course at UC Berkeley. Completion of the prerequisites is also necessary before starting upper division coursework. We advise you to postpone your admission to UC Berkeley until you complete that coursework. This will also allow for more course exploration in the emphases and other subjects.

Major Preparation - Lower Division Courses

The MCB major requirements include a number of lower and upper-division courses. More information about the major, its emphases, and the requirements can be found on our ["Major at a Glance"](#) page.

In general, students considering transferring to the MCB major at UC Berkeley should take at least two semesters/three quarters of the following lower division courses. The UC Berkeley equivalent courses are noted in parentheses.

Subject		Berkeley Equivalent	
Course		□ Berkeley Equivalent	
Course			
General Biology		Biology 1A/1AL	

[Biology 1B](#)

General Chemistry		Chemistry 1A/1AL	Chemistry 1B**
Organic Chemistry		Chemistry 3A/3AL	
Calculus		Math 1A	Math
1B			
Physics (calculus-based)	Physics 8A		Physics 8B

Course descriptions for these courses can be found in the [general catalog](#) or by visiting the host department's website. Advanced Placement (AP) scores may be used to satisfy some of the lower division requirements. For a list of acceptable scores, [click here](#).

*While it is highly recommended to complete Physics sequence prior to enrolling at UC Berkeley, it is not required to declare the major and can be completed while enrolled at UC Berkeley.

**Chemistry 1B is required for BMB track 2 only.

Transferring from a California Community College

If you will be completing your transfer work at a California community college, please refer to [ASSIST](#) for all course articulations between your college and UC Berkeley. ASSIST have already been approved by MCB.

We advise you to complete all [IGETC](#) (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum) requirements before you transfer here. Once here, you have limited time in which to complete these requirements in addition to major requirements.

If you are currently attending a community college, visit their Transfer Center for more information about the UC campuses and to find out if a Berkeley admissions representative will be visiting your campus.

Transferring from a 4-year or private college

Whether you are coming from a community college or a four-year institution, it is important to plan carefully before you transfer. The best approach to choosing the courses that are most likely to transfer and satisfy MCB requirements, is to compare the course descriptions for each requirement.

If you are transferring from a college/university that is not included in Assist.org (most four year, private, out-of-state, and foreign institutions), transferable courses are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Be prepared to provide detailed information about the course(s) you would like to count towards the MCB major requirements.

Full evaluation of transfer courses will occur once you start at UC Berkeley, so it is important to retain any syllabi and/or course material that will be useful in determining course equivalency.

For questions related to University and college requirements, please contact the [College of Letters & Sciences](#).

Questions

If you have any questions about the MCB major or transferring courses, contact the transfer student advisor, James Depelteau, at jdepelteau@berkeley.edu.

For questions about the application process or myBerkeleyApp, be sure you read through the [FAQs on the Transfer Admission website](#) and/or speak with a transfer admissions representative in the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#).

Admitted to Cal and intending MCB? [Check out our admitted transfer student page.](#)

Questions

If you have any questions about the MCB major or transferring courses, contact the transfer student advisor, James Depelteau, at jdepelteau@berkeley.edu or 510.643.8895.