

### **Admitted to Cal and intending MCB?** **ATTEND CAL STUDENT ORIENTATION (CALSO)!**

To ensure a positive start to your semester, it is important to attend CalSO. Academic advisors from the MCB department will be available to answer many of your questions. You will also have the opportunity to meet fellow transfer students. We will cover many important topics at CalSO, such as:

- The differences among the five emphases and their tracks
- How to choose an emphasis
- The MCB prerequisites, and what to do if you haven't completed them
- One-on-one schedule planning for your first semester
- First hand accounts of what to expect as an MCB transfer student
- Resources on campus to help you be successful
- [Sample schedules for transfer students](#)
- Information on how to schedule courses outside your major
- Declaring MCB and the probation policy

#### **UC-to-UC, CSU-to-UC, and Out of State Transfers**

Students transferring from a school not included on assist.org, should plan to provide an unofficial transcript and copies of relevant syllabi for courses that you plan to apply to your major requirements. The material will be reviewed for equivalency to determine if prerequisites have been satisfied.

You will also receive a packet of materials to take with you, which will reinforce everything covered at CalSO. For more information, check out the CalSO [website](#) .

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### **Common Questions**

#### **Can I get advising over the phone or email?**

It depends. We prefer to limit phone and email advising to quick questions. For things such as creation of full academic plans, we strongly prefer and recommend in-person advising. We hope that you attend CalSO! If you are out of state and absolutely cannot come see us in person, please contact James about a phone or Skype appointment. We will not give advisor codes over the phone (see next question). Be aware that due to privacy concerns, there are some things we cannot discuss over phone or email and it will have to wait until you are able to come in person.

**I cannot attend CalSO, but I do not want to wait until mid-July to register for classes.**

### **Can I get my advisor code from the MCB department?**

No. For students who do not attend orientation, New Student Services will release advisor codes (AC) in mid-July. The MCB Department does not issue advisor codes to first-semester transfer students and we do not give out ACs via email or phone. If you stop by the office for advising, but do not attend a formal CalSO program, you will not receive your AC until mid-July.

### **I am not attending CalSO, or I am attending a later CalSO. Will classes fill up?**

It depends on the class. There will still be seats available in upper-division MCB classes in mid-July. However, classes such as Physics 8A will fill up after the first CalSO. The MCB advisors are here to help you come up with an alternative plan if you are not able to register for your first-choice classes.

### **Can I make a 2-year academic plan with an MCB advisor?**

Yes! Such plans can be made in person; please stop by the office during our open hours. In the meantime, review some possible [2-year plans](#) on our website, but keep in mind these plans are suggestions only and are not intended to replace planning with an advisor.

### **I am not transferring from a California community college. How will my science courses transfer?**

We must see the syllabi for all courses you intend to count toward your major requirements. We are unable to verify if your coursework is acceptable without a syllabus that includes a course outline, textbook information, exam styles, lab information if applicable, etc. Please email all syllabi to James Depelteau. If you are unable to email them (preferred), please fax them to 510-643-0365.

### **I want to get credit for some upper-division science courses I took. How can I do that?**

James Depelteau will review the syllabi for all the lower-division prerequisite science classes. An MCB faculty advisor will review the syllabi for any upper-division classes once the fall semester starts. Upper-division course reviews will not be made before then. Faculty are not available until classes start. If you are debating on whether or not to take a course in the fall because you might get transfer credit for it, you will not have a definite answer until classes start.

**I am transferring from a quarter-system school, and I only took 2 quarters of (organic chemistry, physics, calculus, etc.). Do I have to take the class at Berkeley?**

Three quarters of coursework are equivalent to two semesters of coursework at Berkeley. Therefore, if you took the first 2 quarters of, for example, organic chemistry at your transfer institution, you will have to take the second semester of organic chemistry at Berkeley. We do not offer abbreviated versions of courses for students who are transferring from quarter-system schools.

**Should I do research my first semester as a transfer student?**

We recommend transfer students wait to do research until they are more familiar with classes and the amount of work they have to do to be successful. Many transfer students start looking for research in the fall semester, but don't actually start in the lab until the spring. At a minimum, we suggest waiting until you get the grades back for your first midterms before committing to a lab position. For more information on how to find a research position, please look under the [Research & Honors](#) tab.

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### Additional Questions?

If you have any additional questions about the MCB major or transferring courses, contact the transfer student advisor, James Depelteau, at [jdepelteau@berkeley.edu](mailto:jdepelteau@berkeley.edu) or 510.643.8895.