INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Genetics and Plant Biology major is a broad-based program emphasizing the study of plants from the molecular and genetic to organismal levels. The lower division coursework provides students with a foundation in biological and physical sciences as preparation for advanced study at the upper division level and in their concentration. The Department of Plant and Microbial Biology provides a rich and supportive environment for learning, and coursework from the department can be used as a foundation for applications to medical school.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Get involved in a student group such as Microbial Sciences Association or Planty Social.
- Apply for a research position through the SPUR program and present at a college poster session.
- Fund travel for academic conferences or research with a Rausser College Travel Grant.
- Carry out a research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor through the Rausser College Honors Program.

MAJOR CONCENTRATIONS

Students in the Genetics and Plant Biology major have the opportunity to pursue one of four concentrations through their elective coursework: (1) biotechnology and bioenergy, (2) plant diversity and evolution, (3) plant genetics, genomes, or (4) bioinformatics, and plant microbe interactions.

GPB is technical information that's applicable to real post-grad jobs! I've learned about so much that directly translates to lab work, research, and real life.

– Julia Sherman, GPB Junior
GENETICS AND PLANT BIOLOGY

Design your journey and plan your future.

Explore your major

- Meet with your college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Review major and college requirements.
- Talk to the college's peer advisors about life in the major.

Connect and build community

- Take advantage of the college's Student Resource Center.
  - Join a student group such as Microbial Sciences Association or Planty Social.
  - Get a mentoring from graduate students with Berkeley Connect.

Discover your passions

- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course.
-Apply for a research position through SPUR.
-Vist the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
-Learn about research opportunities for Rausser College students.

Engage locally and globally

- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.

Reflect and plan your future

- Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
- Check out the Genetics and Plant Biology Career Snapshot.

- Take advantage of career and pre-health advising for Rausser College students.
- Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter externship.
- Learn about graduate and professional school. See Step-by-Step for planning help.
- Plan internships and attend internship fairs.

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Complement your major with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.
- Review course guidelines for study abroad.

THIRD YEAR

FOURTH YEAR

- Focus elective courses on a concentration.
- Explore approved electives from outside departments for a more interdisciplinary experience, or build an emphasis by taking interrelated classes.
- Ask your college advisor about the Rausser College Honors program.

- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any ‘bucket list’ courses.
- Finish remaining major, college, and campus requirements.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Jobs and Employers

- Analyst, Cornerstone Research
- Lab Tech, Forphite Research Asst., LLNL
- Res. Assoc., Innovative Genomics Inst.

Graduate Programs

- Biochemistry, PhD
- Horticultural Science, Masters
- Molecular Biology, PhD
- Plant Biology, PhD
- Soil Science & Agronomy, Masters

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

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