The School of Biological Sciences is structured around the different levels of biological organization: biochemical, cellular, physiological, and ecological. With a solid foundation in these processes, future training and study in any area of biology is possible, from plant breeding to genetic counseling, from medical microbiology to ecological epidemiology, and from veterinary science to cancer research.

The UC San Diego campus is situated among some of the finest research institutions in the world. The School has close ties with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Salk Institute of Biological Studies, and the Scripps Clinic and Research Institute, all of which open pathways for motivated students.

7 MAJORS

- **ECOLOGY, BEHAVIOR AND EVOLUTION** - Examines population biology, ecology, conservation biology, animal behavior, population genetics, and evolution.

- **GENERAL BIOLOGY** - Intended for students with broad interests who wish to acquire knowledge and skills in multiple disciplinary areas within the biological sciences.

- **MICROBIOLOGY** - Encompasses a wide range of topics from human health to biotechnology, synthetic biology to microbiomes, and biofuels to bioremediation. Provides the basic background for work in medical technology, for further training in public health, and other health related specialties.

- **BIOINFORMATICS** - Utilizes computational approaches to analyze biological data (e.g. large scale genomic, proteomic and metabolomic datasets) to investigate living organisms and their communities.

- **HUMAN BIOLOGY** - Provides a program of study in human physiology and biochemistry and the molecular basis of disease. Students will develop a fundamental understanding of diverse aspects of human biology, from the physiology of organ systems to the genetic and biochemical workings of cells.

- **MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY** - Emphasizes the basic molecular principles that allow organisms to live, grow, and adapt to their environment. Applies concepts from biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, and cell biology to a diverse array of questions ranging from how plants move towards light to the molecular basis of cancer.

- **NEUROBIOLOGY** - An interdisciplinary study of the nervous system, with the ultimate goal to understand higher brain function in health and disease. Combines fundamental courses in biology, neurophysiology, and cellular
MINOR

A minor in General Biology is available to UC San Diego undergraduates who are not pursuing a major in Biology. biology.ucsd.edu/go/ug-minor

CONTIGUOUS BS/MS PROGRAM

This research-based program allows UC San Diego undergraduate students, who have a declared major within the School of Biological Sciences, the opportunity to earn a Master of Science (MS) degree within 3-5 quarters after earning their BS degree. Students receive advanced research experience in a lab on campus. biology.ucsd.edu/education/contiguous-bsms

ADVISING

We offer the following advising services:
- Walk-in Advising
- Scheduled Appointments (online & in person)
- Virtual Advising Center (VAC)
- Info Sessions & Workshops
biology.ucsd.edu/go/ug-advising

RESOURCES & LINKS

ADMISSION - UC San Diego’s Office of Admissions handles undergraduate admission. Admission is competitive and students must exceed the minimum requirements. admissions.ucsd.edu

CAPPED MAJOR STATUS - All majors within the School of Biological Sciences are capped to restrict the number of declared majors. This allows the School to offer the highest quality academic program to our students and to support timely graduation. biology.ucsd.edu/go/capped-major

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES - Participate in experiential learning, internships, science communication, teaching, and more. 

- biology.ucsd.edu/go/student-opps
- biology.ucsd.edu/go/student-orgs
- biology.ucsd.edu/go/exp

RESEARCH - Students have opportunities to share in a professional researcher’s work, including gathering evidence, investigating hypotheses, and evaluating results. biology.ucsd.edu/go/ug-research

STUDY ABROAD - Biology majors have several options to gain experience in the field abroad, in both classroom and lab settings. studyabroad.ucsd.edu

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES - Various study programs and tutoring services are available throughout campus, including STEM focused resources for the majority of the lower-division biology major coursework. students.ucsd.edu/go/tutoring

CAREER CENTER - Many students continue their education in professional (medical, dental, etc.) or graduate school programs. The Career Center provides general career advising as well as pre-health advising.

- Career advising: career.ucsd.edu
- Pre-health & pre-med advising: healthbeat.ucsd.edu

CONTACT US

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