Students are admitted to UCSC with a "proposed major" in most cases, and later petition to officially declare the major. Admission to UCSC does not guarantee acceptance into a particular major. Students must be declared in a major by the end of the second year (or equivalent), so learning about and preparing for a major is a primary goal for first-year students.

**PLANT SCIENCES, B.S.**

- This is a course-intensive and/or sequential program, and students who intend to pursue this major must begin taking classes for the major sometime in their first year at UCSC.

**Importance of an early start:**

To qualify for this major, students must pass with a grade of C or better the following courses or their equivalents: Chem 1A, Chem 1B, Biol 20A, Bioe 20B, and Bioe 20C, and Math 11a or 19a. Students with two or more grades of NP, D, or F in the policy courses are not qualified to declare. The math courses will not be included in the calculation of the maximum number of C-, D+, D, D-, F or NP grades for admission to the major.

**Qualification requirements and/or prerequisites for the major:**

- Determine your Math Placement by completing an assessment in ALEKS before July 17 at [http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/math-placement/mp-assessment-guidelines.html](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/math-placement/mp-assessment-guidelines.html). If you completed a college-level math course, or scored 3 or better on an AP or IB calculus exam, you may be able to use that for placement instead of the ALEKS assessment.

- Students who have taken college-level transferable classes that may apply to the requirements of this major should submit an unofficial transcript to the Biological Sciences Undergraduate Affairs Office prior to July 1, in addition to the official transcript required by the UCSC Admissions Office. Major requirements must be completed with a grade of C (2.0) or better.

- Students can take the Chemistry Self Assessment ([http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/chem/chem-assessment.html](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/chem/chem-assessment.html)) for assistance in determining when to begin in general chemistry.

**Sample first year plan:**

The appropriate Mathematics class based on placement. Based on level of math and chemistry preparation, some students will also begin in CHEM 1A in their first term.

- Fall: MATH 3: Precalculus
- Winter: MATH 11A: Calculus with Applications and CHEM 1A: General Chemistry
- Spring: MATH 11B: Calculus with Applications and CHEM 1B: General Chemistry

**Skills important for success in this major:**

Critical and logical thought, complex problem solving using scientific rules and methods, deductive and inductive reasoning.

**Links to More Information:**

- [http://admissions.ucsc.edu/academics/majors/](http://admissions.ucsc.edu/academics/majors/) (general info)
- [http://registrar.ucsc.edu/catalog/programs-courses/](http://registrar.ucsc.edu/catalog/programs-courses/) (major requirements, course descriptions, etc.)
- [http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/eeb/plntbs/](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/eeb/plntbs/) (program website)

**Questions? Contact an Adviser!**

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