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.

**Major: BIOLOGY, B.A.**

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:**

Determine your math placement by completing an assessment in ALEKS as soon as possible, and by July 23 at the very latest. See https://mathcoach.sites.ucsc.edu for information about ALEKS. If you completed a college-level math course, or scored 3 or better on an AP calculus exam, or 5 or better on an IBH mathematics exam, you may be able to use that for placement instead of the ALEKS assessment. See https://mathcoach.sites.ucsc.edu/courses/course-credit/ for information on placement based on college courses or AP/IBH.

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 (https://www.chemistry.ucsc.edu/academics/undergraduates/First%20Year%20Students/chemistry_self_assessment.html) for assistance in determining when to begin in general chemistry.

The appropriate Mathematics class if needed based on placement.

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

- Determine your math placement by completing an assessment in ALEKS as soon as possible, and by July 23 at the very latest. See https://mathcoach.sites.ucsc.edu for information about ALEKS. If you completed a college-level math course, or scored 3 or better on an AP calculus exam, or 5 or better on an IBH mathematics exam, you may be able to use that for placement instead of the ALEKS assessment. See https://mathcoach.sites.ucsc.edu/courses/course-credit/ for information on placement based on college courses or AP/IBH.
- 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 (https://www.chemistry.ucsc.edu/academics/undergraduates/First%20Year%20Students/chemistry_self_assessment.html) for assistance in determining when to begin in general chemistry.

**Frosh who intend to pursue this major should do the following things prior to the beginning of fall term:**

- Fall: MATH 3: Precalculus
- Winter: BIOE 20C: Ecology and Evolution, and CHEM 1A: General Chemistry
- Spring: BIOL 20A: Cell and Molecular Biology, 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.

**Sample first year plan:**

- Fall: MATH 3: Precalculus
- Winter: BIOE 20C: Ecology and Evolution, and CHEM 1A: General Chemistry
- Spring: BIOL 20A: Cell and Molecular Biology, 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/ (general info)
- http://registrar.ucsc.edu/catalog/programs-courses/ (major requirements, course descriptions, etc.)
- http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/eeb/biolba/index.html (program website)

**Questions?**

Betty O'Donnell and Karina Frazier
eebadvising@ucsc.edu
389 Thimann Labs Building

**Contact an Adviser!**