

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, B.S.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MERCED
SCHOOL OF
NATURAL SCIENCES



WHY APPLY TO BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, B.S.?

There has never been a more exciting and important time to study biology. Recent interdisciplinary and technological advances in our understanding of biological systems make this the “Century of Biology.” The immediate future of biology promises an era of important and profound discoveries. Beyond a basic understanding of life, the study of biology provides insights and knowledge essential to addressing some of society’s most pressing and important problems.

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BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, B.S.



Our undergraduate Biological Sciences program trains students in the fundamental knowledge, skills and ethical responsibilities of equitable participation in the diverse future of biological sciences, its sub-disciplines and its professional applications. We are committed to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion for everyone, including students, faculty and staff. Undergraduate students in the Biological Sciences program are instructed in all the field's scales, from molecules and cells to organisms and ecosystems. The program teaches biology as a unified and interdisciplinary science, reflecting the foundational importance of chemistry, physics, mathematics, engineering, computer science and philosophy to our understanding of biological systems. Students learn both the theoretical and empirical bases of knowledge, and how the scientific method is applied to investigate fundamental questions in the field. There are five emphasis tracks in the biological sciences:

- ▶ Molecular and Cell Biology
- ▶ Human Biology
- ▶ Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- ▶ Developmental Biology
- ▶ Microbiology and Immunology

STUDENT-FACULTY RATIO



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Brenda Yu

B.S. '21

Brenda is a Merced native who graduated from UC Merced in 2019 with a B.S. in Biological Sciences and B.A. in Psychology with dual minors in Chemical Sciences and Community Research & Service. Having conducted biomedical research since her freshman year, Brenda aspires to combine translatable research with clinical application by pursuing a MD/PhD degree. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Biophysics at Stanford University and an NSF GRFP fellow. Her research focuses on leveraging nanotechnology and focused ultrasound to develop non-invasive, targeted therapies for neurological disorders. After graduate school, Brenda will be pursuing a MD. Outside of academic commitments, Brenda dedicates her time to mentorship, community engagement, and program development to support underrepresented scholars. During her time at UC Merced, she was also involved with student life and event programming. Brenda also currently serves as a Board Member on the UC Merced Alumni Association and an Associate on Stanford Women on Boards.