

Biology (General)

Overview

There is no single department of biology at UC Berkeley; courses in the biological sciences are offered through many campus departments including the Departments of Integrative Biology; Environmental Science; Policy & Management; Molecular & Cell Biology; and Plant & Microbial Biology.

However, Berkeley offers three interdepartmental biology courses, which provide a broad, basic introduction to the biological sciences for both majors and non-majors. These courses are taught by faculty from the four departments named above. The name "biology" has been retained for these courses to reflect their interdepartmental character.

BIOLOGY 1A & BIOLOGY 1AL and BIOLOGY 1B are taught fall, spring, and summer semesters, and students may enroll in either the 1A series or 1B (but not both) during any semester. The courses do not need to be taken in any particular order.

For information regarding undergraduate programs and other courses in the biological sciences, see the following department listings in this Guide and visit Biology @ Berkeley (<http://biology.berkeley.edu/>).

Integrative Biology (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/departments/integrative-biology/>)

Environmental Science, Policy & Management (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/departments/environmental-science-policy-management/>)

Molecular and Cell Biology (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/departments/molecular-cell-biology/>)

Plant and Microbial Biology (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/departments/plant-microbial-biology/>)

Biology

BIOLOGY 1A General Biology Lecture 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Spring 2025
General introduction to cell structure and function, molecular and organismal genetics, animal development, form and function. Intended for biological sciences majors, but open to all qualified students.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: CHEM 1A with minimum grades of C-; or CHEM 4A with minimum grade of C-; or AP Chem with minimum score of 4; or Chem HL IB with minimum score of 5; or GCE A-Level Chem with minimum grade of C. **Corequisite:** BIOLOGY 1AL (co-requirements enforced when BIO 1AL is offered). **Recommended:** CHEM 3A or CHEM 12A with minimum grade of C-. BIOLOGY 1B may be taken before BIOLOGY 1A

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Biology/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

BIOLOGY 1AL General Biology Laboratory 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Spring 2025
Laboratory that accompanies 1A lecture course. Intended for biological science majors, but open to all qualified students.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: CHEM 1A with minimum grades of C-; or CHEM 4A with minimum grade of C-; or AP Chem with minimum score of 4; or Chem HL IB with minimum score of 5; or GCE A-Level Chem with minimum grade of C. **Corequisite:** BIOLOGY 1A. **Recommended:** CHEM 3A or CHEM 12A with minimum grade of C-

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1.5 hours of lecture and 3 hours of laboratory per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 6 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Biology/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

BIOLOGY 1B General Biology Lecture and Laboratory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Spring 2025
General introduction to plant development, form, and function; population genetics, ecology, and evolution. Intended for students majoring in the biological sciences, but open to all qualified students. Students must take both Biology 1A and 1B to complete the sequence. Sponsored by Integrative Biology.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 3 hours of laboratory per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 6 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Biology/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.