Comparative Biochemistry

The interdisciplinary Graduate Group in Comparative Biochemistry administers the PhD degree for students interested in a biochemical and molecular approach to problems in the biological sciences. Students work under the supervision of faculty from diverse disciplines including Molecular and Cell Biology; Nutritional Science and Toxicology; Plant and Microbial Biology; Chemistry; Chemical Engineering; Environmental Science, Policy, and Management; Public Health; and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Admission to the University

Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. A complete list of graduate academic departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website (http://grad.berkeley.edu/programs/list/).

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application can be found on the Graduate Division website (http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor’s degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division’s Admissions Requirements page (https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/requirements/). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (http://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/).

Where to apply?

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/).

Normative Time Requirements

Normative time is defined as the elapsed time in years that under normal circumstances would be needed to complete all requirements for the PhD degree assuming that the student engaged in full-time, uninterrupted study and is making desirable progress toward the degree. The normative time for Comparative Biochemistry is five years. Requirements include completion of course work, an oral qualifying exam, and a Ph.D. dissertation. Listed below is a sample of courses that students may take to satisfy the course requirements. The exact courses taken will vary depending on the student’s research focus and goals.

Curriculum

Courses Required (examples)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCELLBI 110</td>
<td>Molecular Biology: Macromolecular Synthesis and Cellular Function</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCELLBI 200A</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Molecular and Cell Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLANTBI 200A</td>
<td>Plant Developmental Genetics</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUSCTX 250</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Metabolic Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCELLBI C214</td>
<td>Protein Chemistry, Enzymology, and Bio-organic Chemistry</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCELLBI 230</td>
<td>Advanced Cell and Developmental Biology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a complete list of courses required, see the Graduate Division's Admissions Requirements page.

Comparative Biochemistry Seminar

Comparative Biochemistry Seminar 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

The objective of this course is to provide an overview of the research activities conducted by faculty members of the Graduate Group in Comparative Biochemistry. The lectures will cover a wide range of interdisciplinary research topics reflecting the breadth of the Group. An important goal of this course is to enhance intellectual and collaborative interactions between students and faculty of the Graduate Group by increasing awareness of the range of research projects. The course will be conducted in a seminar format and is required for students new to the Graduate Group. It is also recommended for advanced students currently in the Group.

Comparative Biochemistry Seminar: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Biochemistry/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Comparative Biochemistry Seminar: Read Less [-]
COMPBIO 299 Graduate Research 1 - 12 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023
Graduate student research.
Graduate Research: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in the Comparative Biochemistry Graduate Group

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer:
6 weeks - 2.5-30 hours of independent study per week
8 weeks - 1.5-22.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Biochemistry/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Graduate Research: Read Less [-]