



UCI BioSci



BIOSCI

2023/2024 Academic Year



“You have chosen to help shape the future.”

Hello, BioSci Anteaters!

Welcome to UCI BioSci and congratulations! You are among the very select group of students who were accepted and enrolled here from over 140,000 who applied to the University this academic year. Furthermore, you are pursuing what we believe is the most important, exciting and meaningful scientific focus: the study of life. You have chosen to help shape the future of humanity and our planet.

MIND | BODY | WORLD is our School's foundational theme. You will see these three words frequently on campus, and in our print and digital communications. Everything in our world begins with life. And life is interconnected. For most of us, a healthy mind requires a healthy body, which in turn requires a healthy world. With the global challenges society faces that impact our health, our economy, and our world every day, audacious biology has never been more urgent. As you begin your studies, you are on your way toward becoming an innovator who can help make a powerful difference in health, climate change, energy production, agriculture and much more.

Upon entering UCI BioSci, you join the sole biology school in Orange County at the R1, or highest research activity level. We are the premier life sciences institution here that is creating new knowledge. As an undergraduate, you bring intellect and energy that help power our mission in shaping the world for the better. Embrace the challenge and enjoy the wonderful satisfaction of achievement.

Please take advantage of everything the School and the University offer to further your success. I look forward to getting to know you in coming months.

Sincerely,



Frank M. LaFerla, PhD
Dr. Lionel and Fay Ng Dean



“Explore all the possibilities.”



Greetings!

It's a great pleasure to welcome you to UCI BioSci. As you settle in here, you will find we are a community of people passionate about biology's leading role in solving life's most compelling issues, from climate change to human health. Your education here will launch you on the path of your dreams and prepare you to help shape a better world for all who inhabit it.

I encourage you to take advantage of all the resources UCI BioSci offers to help you succeed, such as academic counseling, peer tutoring, mentorships, networking and much more. We hope you explore the spectrum of possibilities open to you to achieve your full potential.

Please also take time to play as well as work. Check out the array of activities across campus. Friendships, exercise and fun are essential to a healthy life; they refresh and recharge you for your studies. Remember, too, that the **BioSci Student Affairs Office** is here to answer your questions and provide assistance.

Best wishes as you begin your first year here and see you around BioSci!

Yours truly,

Raju Metherate

Raju Metherate, PhD
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education
UCI School of Biological Sciences



Undergraduate Education

WHERE
all minds
thrive.

MISSION

We connect students to
world-class faculty and research
to foster and stimulate their intellectual
curiosity about life.

Academically Speaking, This Team's Got Your Back!



BioSci Student Affairs is here to help you have a productive and positive college experience. We work with you to help you develop the skills and knowledge you need to navigate the university and work toward your goals. Beyond clarifying requirements and policies, we help students connect with resources and opportunities, and make good decisions for yourself as you work toward your goals.

You already met your BioSci Advisors through summer orientation. New students will see us again in freshman and transfer seminars this fall. Watch for our workshops if you hope to study abroad, need help with academic success, or want pre-health guidance. And, we'd love to say hi at one of the student engagement activities we'll host this year to help you destress and connect with your BioSci community.

Working with your professional Advisors, the BioSci Peer Academic Advisors (PAAs) are an amazing group of students with a little more experience and expertise to share. They're great at answering advising questions and providing guidance from a student perspective.

UCI offers so many great opportunities, and many students will run into challenges. You don't need to figure it out alone – your Bio Advisors and PAAs are here to help you understand your options, connect with opportunities, and navigate challenges.

We invite you to check out our website: you can ask quick questions through our online chat, schedule longer conversations through UCI Appointments, and find helpful forms, policies, and info. undergraduate.bio.uci.edu/student-affairs/

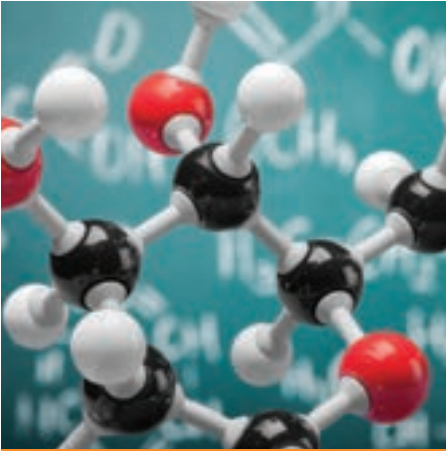
The background is a dark blue gradient. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are several donuts with various toppings: pink with sprinkles, chocolate with white drizzle, and orange with chocolate drizzle. Scattered throughout the background are small, semi-transparent circles in shades of blue and yellow. A large, faint, light-blue DNA double helix is visible on the left side, partially behind the text.

DONUTS —WITH THE— DEAN

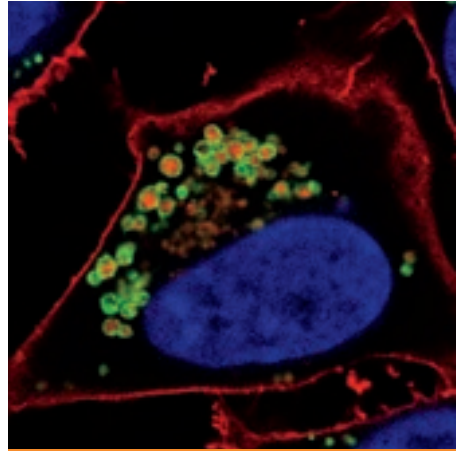
Oct 3 @ 4 pm

**5th Floor Lobby
Natural Sciences II**

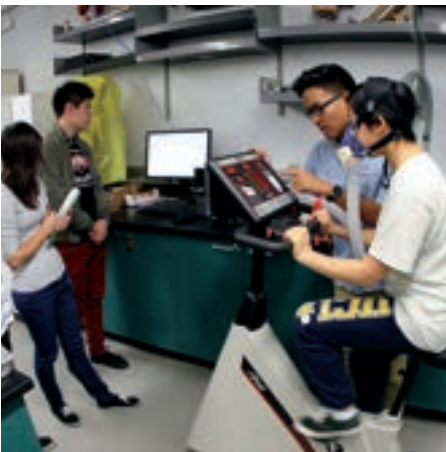
Major Opportunities to Shape Your Education and Future



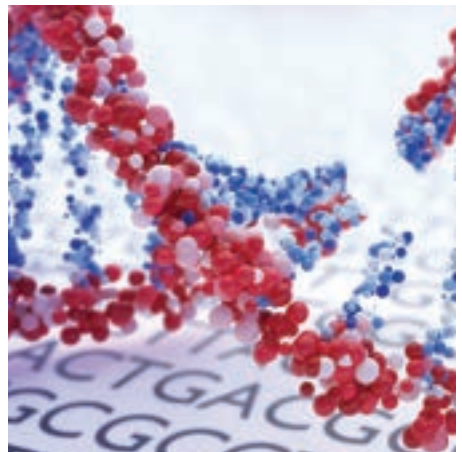
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology



Developmental & Cell Biology



Exercise Sciences



Genetics

As a UCI BioSci undergraduate, you study the science of life and the interconnection between mind, body and world health. As you learn more about the extraordinary ways biologists shape the future, you may become intrigued by a particular area and decide to pursue it as a major.

Students begin by majoring in Biological Sciences, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology or Biology/Education, after meeting course and GPA requirements.



Human Biology



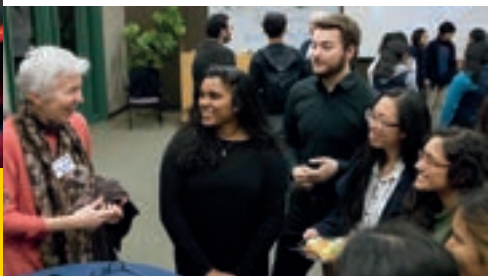
Microbiology & Immunology



Neurobiology

For more info on BioSci majors and the Change of Major process, please see undergraduate.bio.uci.edu/student-affairs/policies/





Leaders Wanted:

Apply to BioSci Student Council

Seeking to sharpen your leadership skills and help shape student life here? Apply to join the Biological Sciences Student Council, or BSC.

BSC works with faculty and staff on academic and student affairs programs, organizes events, links undergraduates with volunteer opportunities, and promotes BioSci to the greater campus and community. The goal is to ensure the School is constantly evolving to meet students' needs.

Members of the BSC meet once a week. They also spend several hours weekly planning, organizing and taking part in BSC events. The application period opens a week prior to the fall and winter academic quarters. You will find more information about the BSC, membership details and even a suggestion box on its website:

<http://bioscisc.wixsite.com/official>.



An Academic Hand from Students Who Have Been There

As you hit the books in coming weeks, there's a special resource to help if you have questions on a particular course or would like more explanation of a concept. UCI BioSci Peer Tutoring is designed to assist you in exactly this situation, and it's free!

The weekly sessions are led by upperclass students who have excelled in the subjects you are studying. They cover key points of individual classes, provide worksheets so you can practice that week's material and hold review sessions before exams. It's an atmosphere of camaraderie and encouragement. The program's tutors say they love seeing students learn and succeed.

One undergraduate who attended Peer Tutoring said, "It really helped me understand concepts I didn't grasp at first. Because of it, I felt I did better on my midterm scores and quiz scores." Another participant commented, "My tutor created a comfortable environment. I got more exposure and extra help on the material."

There's no need to sign up in advance. You can go to just one session or all of them; prior attendance is not necessary. For more information, visit <https://sites.google.com/a/uci.edu/biotutor/>

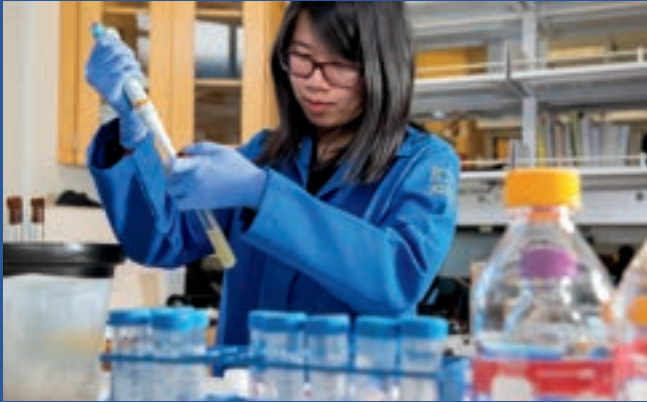




"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

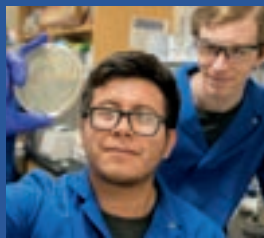
– Thomas A. Edison





"You have to stay in school. You have to go to college. You have to get your degree... the one thing people can't take away from you is your education. And it is worth the investment."

– Michelle Obama



Connect with a UCI BioSci Mentor



The start of the new school year comes with great opportunities for you to grow as an undergraduate. All BioSci undergraduates are invited to participate in the 2023-2024 BioSci Mentor Program.

This is your opportunity to be matched with an accomplished mentor working in the fields of medicine, law, biotechnology, research and many more life science related fields. A mentor provides academic and career guidance, networking opportunities and insights into the working world. Letters of recommendation are incredibly important as you continue your career, and mentors can provide them for you. Students have told us that meeting our alumni and friends through this program made a positive difference in their lives.



Benefits of having a mentor:

- Gain advice and counsel from a life science professional.
- Explore specific jobs, future career paths and industries.
- Build relationships and professional networks.
- Participate in activities related to common interests.
- And more!



Registration is opening soon! For program details, go to:
www.bio.uci.edu/mentor-program or email **biosci-mentor@uci.edu**.

Grab a Donut and Start Building Your Professional Network

What do eating a donut, spending time with alumni and getting an insider's insights into hot biology topics have in common? They are all ways you can jump start your future plans now by networking. Please check out the many opportunities to get to know School faculty and leadership, UCI BioSci grads and acclaimed biologists from around the world.

Here are just a few we suggest:

- **Donuts with the Dean:** Meet up with BioSci Dean Frank LaFerla and life sciences professionals at this casual quarterly get-together. Enjoy lively conversation sweetened by your choice of powdered, glazed and more. Yum!
- **Mentor Program:** Register to be matched with an alumnus or alumna, or another community professional, who works in the life sciences and shares your field of focus. You'll benefit from expert advice and encouragement as you work toward your goals.
- **Lectures:** Attend the Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series. BioSci faculty and other acclaimed scientists will fill you in on the newest developments on pressing biological and medical topics. Ask questions and mingle afterwards. You'll leave with greater insights and new professional links.
- **Starbucks:** Keep in mind BioSci's Starbucks is a favorite networking venue. The café, located in Mitosis Plaza across from BioSci 3, seems to have a special way of energizing conversation and connections, and we don't think it's just the caffeine!

For more info on getting involved with the BioSci community, explore undergraduate.bio.uci.edu/get-involved/



Undergraduate *Excellence in Research* Program

Participation in the Excellence in Research Program is among the highest academic achievements for UCI undergraduates. To successfully complete the program, participants must:

- Enroll in Bio Sci 199 for 4 quarters.
- Complete a scientific paper.
- Present a research poster.

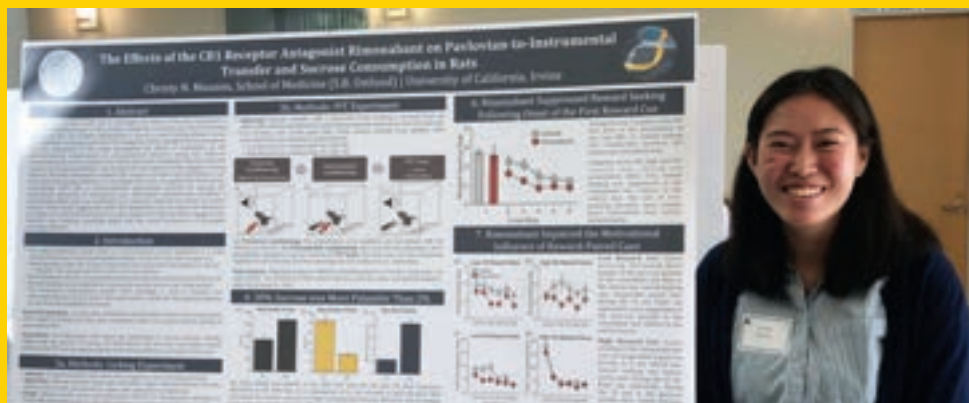
For complete eligibility requirements, please visit:

undergraduate.bio.uci.edu/undergraduate-excellence-in-research-program/

Why Participate?

- **Mentorship** from world-class faculty and scientists.
- **Publish** your research in a scientific journal.
- **Distinguish** your post-graduation applications and interviews.
- **Sharpen** your critical thinking, writing and oral communication skills.
- **Participate** in a research symposium.

Those who successfully complete the program are awarded the “Excellence in Research” designation, and their papers are published in the *Journal of Undergraduate Research in the Biological Sciences*. Through these opportunities, our students gain a depth of understanding and appreciation for research at the highest level that cannot be obtained in any other way.



Poster Judging 2018 – Christy Munson presents poster (Bio 199 Behavioral Neurosci, Sean Ostlund).



November Information Workshops – Student panelists share their experience in the program with interested students.

Need more information?

Please visit the BioSci Student Affairs website at:

undergraduate.bio.uci.edu/undergraduate-excellence-in-research-program/





“I think the biggest innovations of the 21st century will be at the intersection of biology and technology. A new era is beginning.” – Steve Jobs

Minority Science Programs

The UCI School of Biological Sciences established the Outreach, Research Training and Minority Science Programs (MSP) in 2000 to increase the number and academic excellence of underrepresented (UR) groups being trained as the next generation of biomedical research scientists. With help from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), MSP supports programs that foster research training and the development of a strong and diverse biomedical research workforce.

MSP uses a “pipeline” approach to identify promising undergraduate students early in their academic careers (freshman and sophomore students) to foster an interest in research to ultimately enter PhD programs in the biomedical sciences.



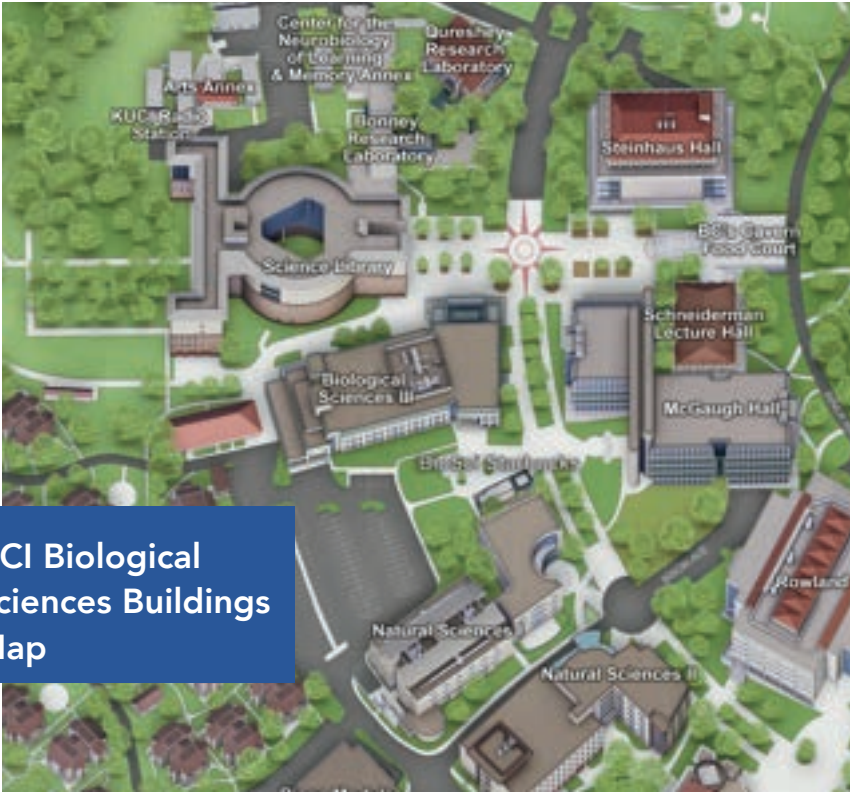
In the last ten years, through its undergraduate research training programs, MSP has supported over 300 undergraduate UR students. Ninety-nine percent of them have graduated with a bachelor's degree from UCI. A large majority of students who completed the program have gone on to pursue a PhD. MSP students have co-authored more than 600 peer-reviewed publications in top journals including *Science*, *Nature*, *Nature Neuroscience*, *Stroke*, among others. MSP students have given more than 650 scientific presentations at national meetings, and have received more than 350 awards.

For more information, visit undergraduate.bio.uci.edu/minority-science-program/



10 Tips as You Start at BioSci

10. Read through this entire welcome booklet.
9. Look for all the Peter the Anteater statues and benches across campus.
8. Learn more about your academic advising resources at undergraduate.bio.uci.edu/student-affairs
7. Walk, run or bike the Mountains to the Sea Trail.
6. Plan to attend at least one Dean's Distinguished Lecture.
5. If you need some help with your studies, take advantage of the free Peer Tutoring program.
4. Introduce yourself to BioSci Dean Frank LaFerla and savor a pastry at "Donuts with the Dean."
3. If you're thinking about entering one of the health professions after graduation, make an appointment to meet with an Advisor in the BioSci Student Affairs Office.
2. Take a nap in Aldrich Park.
1. Study hard, but don't be all work and no play. Make friends, explore new activities, exercise, eat right and get enough sleep. A well-balanced life will make you even more successful!



Sample Program – Biological Sciences

FIRST YEAR

Fall	Winter	Spring
BIO SCI 93 + 93L	BIO SCI 94 + 94L	MATH 5A
CHEM 1A	CHEM 1B	CHEM 1C- 1LC
General Education course	Writing ¹ or GE	Writing ¹ or GE
BIO SCI 2A	General Education	

¹Students have the option of taking HUMAN 1AS, HUMAN 1BS, HUMAN 1CS or WRITING 40, WRITING 50, WRITING 60 in order to fulfill the lower-division writing requirement.

Connect with BioSci!



SOPHOMORE

Fall

BIO SCI 97

CHEM 51A

CHEM 1LD

General Education

Winter

BIO SCI 98

CHEM 51B- 51LB

General Education

Spring

BIO SCI 99

CHEM 51C-51LC

STATS 7, 8, MATH 2D, or
MATH 3A



Expectations for Academic Advising

BioSci Student Affairs academic advisors equip students with the tools they need to have productive and meaningful college experiences — from the first summer orientation to the final walk at commencement. We partner with students and family members to share responsibility for student success.

We all play a role. What's yours?

Student

- **Take responsibility** for your academic performance and experience. Your advisor is here to guide you as you make informed decisions for yourself.
- **Take initiative** to seek help before a situation becomes a crisis and advocate for yourself responsibly.
- **Be an active participant** in the advising experience: think carefully about your academic and career plans and share your interests and goals with your advisor.
- **Remember you are part of the larger UCI community:** be mindful of how your actions affect others. Be considerate of advisors, faculty, and classmates by being on time for appointments, preparing for classes, and respecting your peers.
- **Do your part.** Familiarize yourself with the academic calendar, be aware of important deadlines, and understand your degree requirements. If anything is unclear, remember that the most accurate information will come from your advisor.

Academic Advisor

- Provide a **supportive environment** and build trusting relationships with students.
- **Ask meaningful questions** and listen to students to understand their strengths, challenges, and goals.
- **Connect students** with resources and opportunities to maximize their college experience, and teach students skills to navigate the university.
- **Respond promptly** to student concerns, and use advising resources and knowledge.

Family Members

- **Empower your student** to take ownership of their college experience. Offer advice without making decisions for them.
- If you see your student is struggling, encourage them to **check in with an academic advisor.**
- **Learn about campus resources,** and remind your student to use these resources and talk to academic advisors regularly.
- **Encourage your student** to explore their interests, make meaningful connections, and find community.

Visit our website: <https://undergraduate.bio.uci.edu/>

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



RESPECT

We value diverse perspectives and commit to civil discourse.



COURAGE

We strive to innovate, bravely take action, and learn from our mistakes.



JUSTICE

We embrace diversity, uphold equity, and actively promote inclusion.



ACCOUNTABILITY

We hold ourselves and others responsible for our actions.



SECURITY

We commit to maintaining a collegial environment where everyone feels safe.



TEAMWORK

We work together and encourage collaboration.



INTEGRITY

We do what is right, even when it is difficult or no one is looking.



EXCELLENCE

We set high standards and recognize both individual and collective achievement.



FIRST YEAR

BIOSCI T-SHIRTS

Tuesday 9/26 - BioSci Starbucks, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Wednesday 9/27 - BioSci Starbucks, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Thursday 9/28 - Natural Sciences I, Room 1202 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Friday 9/29 - Natural Sciences I, Room 1202 1:00pm to 3:00pm