

FALL 2026 SUGGESTED COURSES**Microbiology (MCRO)**

Course Load

As you adjust to Cal Poly and/or a new environment, we recommend enrolling in **12-14 units, with no more than 3 labs**. You can determine if your course has a lab by reading the course description. All course descriptions, including prerequisites, can be found in the [Cal Poly Catalog](#).

Course Suggestions**MAJOR**

- **MCRO 1100:** Introduction to Microbiology Research (2 units) (likely not offered Spring)
- If needed, **MCRO 2224:** General Microbiology I (4 units)

Note: **MICRO 3351 Microbial Genetics** will not be offered until Spring and is the prerequisite for many of the Restricted Electives. **BIO 3351 Principles of Genetics** (3 units) may be used as a substitute and is taught in Fall. If you have already taken the equivalent of **MCRO 2224** and Organic Chemistry, talk with a faculty advisor about whether this is a good option for you.

ELECTIVES

It's a good idea to consult advisors about your choices, *especially* if you plan to pursue graduate studies or if you are interested in a health professions career. Pay special attention to course descriptions and the footnotes on your curriculum sheet. Courses used in the core of a major cannot also be used toward a concentration/elective. However, if a major/support/concentration/elective course is also a GE, it can be used to fulfill both requirements.

Selected options:

- If you have already satisfied the equivalent of **MCRO 2224**, then consider these options:
 - **MCRO 3320:** Emerging Infectious Disease (3 units)
 - **MCRO 4421:** Food Microbiology (3 units)
- Depending on your interests, consider:
 - **BIO 2253:** Principles of Ecology and Evolution (4 units)
 - **BIO 3352:** Principles of Animal Physiology (4 units)

SUPPORT

If needed, complete any remaining support courses.

- If you have not taken Organic Chemistry, take **CHEM 2240** (4 units) OR **CHEM 2242** (5 units); talk to an advisor about which is best for your goals.
- If you have taken Organic Chemistry, consider **CHEM 3350:** Biochemistry: Fundamentals and Applications OR **CHEM 3352** Biochemistry (both 4 units - talk to an advisor about which is best for your goals).



GENERAL EDUCATION

If needed, complete any remaining lower-division GE courses. Otherwise, select an upper-division GE course.

Other Graduation Requirements

GWR

[The Graduation Writing Requirement \(GWR\)](#) must be fulfilled by enrolling in a [GWR-certified course](#) or by completing a [GWR Portfolio](#). *Please note* that completion of **BIO 4461: Senior Project** – Research Proposal or **BIO 4463: Senior Project** – Meta-analysis in Biology will satisfy the GWR requirement.

USCP

Students must satisfy the [United States Cultural Pluralism \(USCP\)](#) requirement. Please [click here](#) for a list of USCP courses in the Cal Poly catalog.

Additional Information

PERMISSION NUMBERS

If you need a permission number for a major class, please contact the instructor for that class section or the BIO department office.

DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFO

- [Building 33 \(Fisher Science\), Room 281](#)
- bio.calpoly.edu
- biosci@calpoly.edu
- 805-756-2788

BAILEY COLLEGE STUDENT SERVICES CONTACT INFO

- [Building 53 \(Science North\), Room 211](#)
- csmadvising.calpoly.edu and prehealth.calpoly.edu
- csmadvising@calpoly.edu and prehealth@calpoly.edu
- 805-756-2615