

MS in Biological Sciences

Admission Requirements

The department typically admits only applicants who wish to be candidates for the PhD, however, applicants may be admitted to the MS program under unusual circumstances. Applicants are considered on an individual basis. Transcripts of all undergraduate and any graduate work must be submitted. In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field** No restrictions. It is recommended that prior academic work include courses in biological sciences beyond the introductory level to provide sufficient preparation for the proposed area of study. Admitted applicants may be required to remedy specific course work deficiencies by enrolling in undergraduate classes during their first year.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 3.00/4.00 for the final 60 semester (90 quarter) hours of undergraduate study.
- **Minimum English Competency Score**
 - **TOEFL iBT** 90, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 24, Speaking 26, and Writing 21, **OR**,
 - **IELTS Academic** 6.5, with subscores of Reading 6.0, Listening 7.5, Speaking 8.0, and Writing 6.0, **OR**,
 - **PTE-Academic** 54, with subscores of Reading 51, Listening 47, Speaking 53, and Writing 56.
- **Letters of Recommendation** Three required, preferably from faculty who are familiar with the applicant's recent work.
- **Personal Statement** A one- to three-page statement of the applicant's area of interest and potential faculty mentors working in this area, research experience, professional goals, and reasons for wishing to attend graduate school is required.
- **Deadlines** Application deadlines for this program are listed on the Graduate College website.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, students must meet the following program requirements:

Two tracks are available, research or coursework. (**Note:** Until further notice, no new students will be admitted to the coursework track.)

Research Track

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 32.
- **Course Work** At least 24 semester hours of 400- and 500-level courses are required. A minimum of 9 semester hours of 500-level courses must be letter-graded courses (A to F), not project (BIOS 597), thesis (BIOS 598), or seminar courses which are graded Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U).
- **Comprehensive Final Examination** Required. The examination typically includes an oral presentation and defense of the research thesis.
- **Thesis, Project, or Coursework-Only Options** Thesis required. No other options are available.
 - *Thesis:* Students must earn at least 5 semester hours of BIOS 598.

Course Work Track

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 32.
- **Coursework** At least 24 semester hours of 400- and 500-level courses are required. A minimum of 9 semester hours of 500-level courses must be letter-graded courses (A to F), not project (BIOS 597), thesis (BIOS 598), or seminar courses which are graded Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U).
- **Comprehensive Final Examination** Required. The examination typically includes an oral presentation of the project.
- **Thesis, Project, or Coursework-Only Options** Project required. No other options are available.
 - *Project:* Students must take at least 5 semester hours of BIOS 597.