Biology, MS

The biology master's degree program complements other, more specialized life sciences programs. This program is flexible and can be tailored to your interests. It allows both interdisciplinary and traditional approaches. Courses include laboratory, field and theoretical work.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Biology

This MS program in biology is designed to prepare students for careers in teaching and research in educational, medical, industrial and governmental institutions.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus

Accelerated Degrees

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- Biological Sciences, BS
- Biological Sciences (Biology and Society), BS
- Biological Sciences (Biomedical Sciences), BS
- Biological Sciences (Conservation Biology and Ecology), BS
- Biological Sciences (Genetics, Cell and Developmental Biology), BS
- Biological Sciences (Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior), BS
- Microbiology, BS
Microbiology (Medical Microbiology), BS  
Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology, BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis

Each student's plan is prepared in consultation with the supervisory committee, consisting of a professor in the major and two additional faculty members. A typical plan of study consists of:

- research credit (8-14 credit hours)
- coursework and additional seminars (9-15 credit hours)
- seminar (1 credit hour)
- thesis (6 credit hours)

The remainder of the plan of study usually consists of a mixture of coursework, readings, conferences and seminars in the student's primary and related fields, and research credits.

Courses and research credits can be distributed in any combination appropriate to the student's individual educational goals. A final oral examination covering the thesis and related subject matter is administered by the supervisory committee.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in biology or a related discipline, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants must submit the following:
1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. academic record form
4. personal statement
5. curriculum vitae or resume
6. GRE scores
7. three letters of recommendation
8. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

Desired Qualifications:

1. GRE scores: 50 percent verbal and 70 percent quantitative
2. research experience

**Contact Information**

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