Biology, MS

This program complements other, more specialized life sciences programs, allowing both interdisciplinary and traditional approaches. Courses include laboratory, field and theoretical work.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Biology
This MS in biology is a flexible program based around a student's individual research interests, allowing students to explore areas of biology that thrive outside of traditional boundaries. This master's program is designed to prepare students for careers in teaching and research in educational, medical, industrial and governmental institutions.

At a Glance

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

Accelerated Program Options
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
Neuroscience, BS

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

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis, or
30 credit hours including a portfolio, or
30 credit hours including a written comprehensive exam, or
30 credit hours including an applied project (BIO 593), or
30 credit hours including the required capstone course (BIO 597)

Required Core (3 credit hours)
BIO 541 SOLS Seminar Series (1)
BIO 542 SOLS Current Topics in the Life Sciences (1)
BIO 610 Introduction to Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) in Life Sciences (1) or BIO 611 Current Topics in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) in the Life Sciences (1)

Electives (21-27 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (0-6 credit hours)
BIO 593 Applied Project (3)
BIO 597 Capstone (3)
BIO 599 Thesis (6)
portfolio (0)
written comprehensive exam (0)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students choose one of five culminating experience options listed above. The credit hours required for the electives depends on the culminating experience chosen as all students must complete 30 credit hours for this degree program.

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 cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (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. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

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

It is desired that applicants have research experience.

Career Opportunities
A Master of Science in biology provides strong preparation for academic careers, from community colleges to research universities. The skills and knowledge obtained in this program are also valuable for government careers in federal and state agencies responsible for wildlife management and conservation, and for careers in industry and nongovernmental organizations.

Career examples include:

- food, agriculture and health care scientists in academic, private and industrial labs
- instructors at community colleges
- researchers and technicians in government labs and nonprofit organizations
- science teachers in elementary and high schools
- wildlife, animal and conservation scientists

Contact Information
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