Our biology PhD program complements other, more specialized life science degree programs by providing the largest amount of flexibility in your course choices. Develop your research skills and acquire high research competency in one or more specialized areas while receiving a broad, solid grounding in biological sciences.

**Program Description**

**Degree Awarded: PHD Biology**

The PhD program in biology offers individualized courses of study tailored to students interests that include laboratory, field and theoretical work. Flexibility in the program is achieved by requiring only one core class, which is a choice between two topics that cover the breadth of the research directions in this program.

Electives are also as flexible as possible and include areas outside of biology. The major goal is to provide opportunities to create an adaptable and general degree program that allows both traditional and interdisciplinary approaches in any area of biology.

**At a Glance**

- **College/School:** [The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe campus](#)

**Degree Requirements**

84 credit hours, a oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

**Required Core (3-4 credit hours)**

- BIO 614 Biometry (4) or
- BIO 620 Research Prospectus Writing (3)
Electives (68-69 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)
BIO 799 Dissertation (12)

Additional Curriculum Information
The program is tailored to the needs of the individual student. The plan of study is developed by the student and a supervisory committee consisting of a major professor and three additional faculty members. The electives credit hours are comprised of coursework showing breadth in biology subdisciplines, seminars and research.

An oral comprehensive examination is required in order to advance to candidacy and a formal defense of the final written dissertation is required prior to graduation.

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 their 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: We encourage you to apply even if your GRE results do not meet the desired scores. We consider all components of your application package before making a decision.
2. research experience

Contact Information

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