Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Molecular and Cellular Biology

The PhD program in molecular and cellular biology prepares students for careers that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries.

It provides a diverse range of research and training opportunities for doctoral students interested in pursuing a transdisciplinary approach to their studies that extends beyond the traditional boundaries of biological research. Participating faculty members and researchers are drawn from multiple departments, colleges, centers and institutes across the university, including:

- School of Life Sciences
- Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- School of Biological and Health Systems Engineering
- School for Engineering of Matter, Transport and Energy
- School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences
- School of Human Evolution and Social Change
- Department of Psychology
- New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences.

Participating faculty members are also based at partner institutions in the greater Phoenix area, including:

- Translational Genomics Research Institute
- Mayo Clinic in Arizona
- Barrow Neurological Institute
- Carl T. Hayden Veteran's Administration Medical Center
- University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix.

Former graduates are leaders at academic institutions, in government, and in industry.
Degree Requirements

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

The plan of study is designed by the student and the supervisory committee. The plan of study includes, core classes in molecular and cellular biology, colloquium, seminars and research for a total of 84 credit hours.

An oral and written comprehensive examination are required in order to advance to candidacy.

A formal defense of the final written dissertation is required prior to graduation.

Twelve credit hours of dissertation are required and the remaining credit hours are comprised of core coursework, seminars and research.

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 the biological sciences, biochemistry or a closely related field 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 include GRE scores and research experience.

Global Opportunities

PLuS Alliance
Global Experience
Global Degree

Career Opportunities

Contact Information

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