Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Molecular and Cellular Biology

The PhD program in molecular and cellular biology prepares students for careers that span traditional disciplinary boundaries. Research in this exciting field is focused on understanding the fundamental molecular events that are at the core of all life. The goal of the program is to provide 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. The broad-based training provides the necessary skills for professional careers in academic institutions, governmental institutions and industry, particularly those related to health and chemical sciences.

Participating faculty members and researchers are drawn from multiple departments, colleges, centers and institutes across the university, including the School of Life Sciences; the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry; the School of Biological and Health Systems Engineering; the School for Engineering of Matter, Transport and Energy; the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences; the School of Human Evolution and Social Change; the Department of Psychology; and the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. Participating faculty members are also based at partner institutions in the greater Phoenix area, including the Translational Genomics Research Institute, Mayo Clinic in Arizona, Barrow Neurological Institute, Carl T. Hayden Veteran's Administration Medical Center and University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix.

At a Glance

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

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.

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**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 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 include GRE scores (50 percent verbal and 70 percent quantitative) and research experience.
Contact Information

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