Plant biologists are needed for critical research and conservation roles in several industries. This unique master's degree program, offered in collaboration with Phoenix's Desert Botanical Garden, has three areas of focus to help meet the demands of conserving plant resources in a rapidly changing world: plant sciences, quantitative skills and human dimensions.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Plant Biology and Conservation

Conservation addresses a growing need for botanists and conservation biologists in academic institutions, government agencies and nongovernmental organizations. The MS program in plant biology and conservation provides students with advanced training in plant ecology, evolution and floristics as well as in theory and practice of conservation biology. Students have the opportunity to work with faculty and researchers from ASU and the Desert Botanical Garden, which is located near ASU's Tempe campus.

At a Glance

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

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis

**Required Core (3 credit hours)**
PLB 502 Perspectives in Plant Biology (3)

**Research (3 credit hours)**
PLB 592 Research (3)
Electives (17 credit hours)

Other Requirements (1 credit hour)
PLB 591 Seminar (1)

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)
PLB 599 Thesis (6)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students should see the academic unit for a complete list of approved electives.

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

Contact Information

School of Life Sciences | LSA 181
sols.grad@asu.edu | 480-965-1768