Plant Biology and Conservation, MS

Plant biologists are needed for critical research and conservation roles in several industries. Help meet the demands of conserving plant resources in a rapidly changing world in this unique program that has three areas of focus: plant sciences, quantitative skills and human dimensions.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Plant Biology and Conservation
Conservation demonstrates 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, located in Phoenix near ASU's Tempe campus.

This master's degree program is offered in collaboration with the Desert Botanical Garden.

At a Glance

- College/School: The 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)
BIO 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 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.
Career Opportunities

A master's degree in plant biology and conservation 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 management and conservation, and for careers in industry and nongovernmental organizations.

Career examples include:

- conservation scientists
- food and agriculture 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

Contact Information

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