Applied Biological Sciences, MS

This master's degree program is designed for students passionate about contributing to a more sustainable environment.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Applied Biological Sciences

The MS program in applied biological sciences offers advanced instruction in the ecology and sustainable management of natural and urban ecosystems. Rigorous programs of study involving field and laboratory work are custom-designed to apply ecological or biological principles to problems in species or ecosystem conservation. All programs culminate with the completion of an intensive, research-based thesis or applied project.

The program is supported by faculty members with backgrounds in:

- ecological restoration
- environmental microbiology
- environmental stress physiology
- desert horticulture
- plant-fungal ecology
- plant systematics
- riparian and stream ecology
- urban micrometeorology
- wildlife biology

At a Glance

- College/School: College of Integrative Sciences and Arts
- Location: Polytechnic campus
Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- Applied Biological Sciences (Applied Biological Sciences), BS
- Applied Biological Sciences (Applied Ecology and Preveterinary Medicine), BS
- Applied Biological Sciences (Natural Resource Ecology), BS
- Applied Biological Sciences (Preveterinary Medicine), BS
- Applied Biological Sciences (Secondary Education in Biology), BS
- Applied Biological Sciences (Sustainable Horticulture), BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis, or
30 credit hours including the required applied project course (ABS 592 and ABS 593)

Required Core (3 credit hours)
ABS 550 Vegetation Dynamics (3) or
ABS 555 Wildlife Dynamics (3)

Electives or Research (21 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)
ABS 592 Research (3) and ABS 593 Applied Project (3)
ABS 599 Thesis (6)

Additional Curriculum Information
The electives coursework is chosen to support the student's educational objectives.

Students choose a thesis or applied project option. A final oral examination covering the thesis and related subject matter is required.

Admission Requirements
Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree 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.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. GRE scores or Miller Analogies Test scores
4. resume
5. statement of intent
6. three letters of recommendation
7. 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.

Applicants are expected to have completed 18 credit hours in biological sciences and closely related courses. Specific fields of study may have specific expectations regarding courses taken at the undergraduate level. Applicants not meeting these course requirements may be considered for admission with deficiencies.

The statement of intent (maximum 600 words) should explain the applicant's interest in environmental resources, academic background and educational objectives.

The letters of recommendation should be from references who are qualified to comment on the applicant's potential in the selected area of study.

Department faculty evaluate the applications and supporting materials and recommend to Graduate Admission Services whether the applicant should be granted admission (either regular or provisional) or denied admission. If admission is provisional, the Graduate College specifies in its letter of admission the provisions that need to be met to gain regular status. The school informs successful applicants of the procedures for enrollment.

Contact Information