

Department of Biological Sciences

Graduate Program in Biology

Summary of Degree Requirements for M.S. and Ph.D.

Master of Science Degree (applies to both co-terminal* and regular M.S. degrees**)

21-28 Credits of Coursework

2-9 Credit Research Project (MS Project or MS Thesis)

TOTAL: 30 Credits

NOTES:

The MS project and thesis are both typically original research projects undertaken with a faculty mentor. An MS thesis (4-9 CR) must be approved by an MS thesis committee and must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Education for approval, whereas a project (2-9 CR) only needs to be approved by the advisor. In some cases, the project may involve activities other than original research.

- Of the 30 credits, 15 or more (including the thesis or project) must be at the 6000 level, with the rest at 4000 or above.
- Of the 30 credits, 15 or more (including the thesis or project) must have the BIOL or BCBP prefix.

* NOTE: for the co-terminal M.S., courses CANNOT count toward both the M.S. and B.S. degrees. You must review your CAPP report to ensure that the courses you need to complete your B.S. degree are different from those you will use to complete your M.S. degree.

** ADDITIONAL NOTE: For students who start in the PhD program, but then switch to the MS program, the Core Course, Seminar Course, Rotation "Courses" and any other coursework all count as Coursework – so the typical first year student will have 22 credits of coursework, and will need an additional 8 credits (including a thesis or a project) to graduate with an MS.

PhD Degree

- ✓ Complete 72 credit hours beyond BS/BA degree
- ✓ Complete all requirements within 7 years (5 years if entering with a MS)
- ✓ Take two-semester Core Course during year 1
- ✓ Take two additional graduate level courses during year 1-2 (typically 1 in 1st year, 1 in 2nd)
- ✓ Attend weekly Biology Seminar Series and meet requirements of 1CR Seminar Course (every semester)
- ✓ Serve as a teaching assistant for undergraduate course (1-4 semesters)
- ✓ To choose thesis lab, student will do research rotations in 3 labs.
 Upon completion of 3rd rotation, before the end of the first year, student will join a lab for PhD research
- ✓ Form thesis committee (Spring of year 2)
- ✓ Pass written and oral candidacy exam (by end of year 2)
- ✓ Present department seminar (approximately once per year)
- ✓ Complete and defend a research thesis