

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

The biological sciences program provides broad interdisciplinary graduate training in biology leading to the Master of Science degree. This interdisciplinary program utilizes the faculty, facilities and courses of the Departments of Microbiology, Physiology, Plant Biology and Zoology. The program is designed for those students who desire a broad-based curriculum rather than an in-depth concentration in only one of the biological sciences.

Requirements for Admission

All applicants must submit an application to the biological sciences program. Applicants must meet the minimal requirements of the Graduate School before being considered for admission to Biological Sciences. A completed application includes the program application form, three letters of recommendation, transcripts of all previous college credit, and scores from the general aptitude portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Prerequisites for graduate training in the biological sciences program include a bachelor's degree with the following academic background.

1. 37 semester hours of undergraduate courses distributed among any three of the biological science areas (plant biology, microbiology, physiology and zoology).
2. Organic chemistry with laboratory.
3. Physics.
4. Statistics.

(NOTE: Applicants deficient in these background areas may be admitted, but any deficiency must be successfully completed before the third semester of registration in the program.) Application forms are available from: Director, Biological Sciences Program, SIUC, Mail Code 4403, Carbondale, IL 62901-6505.

Advisement

After admission to the program, a student must consult the director of the biological sciences program for counsel and assistance prior to registration.

No later than the end of the first semester of registration in the program, the student must arrange with a faculty member of one of the four biological science departments to serve as the research adviser.

Following selection and approval of the research adviser, a research and advisory committee is to be recommended to the director of the biological sciences program for approval by the dean of the Graduate School. The research and advisory committee shall consist of a minimum of three members, each representing a different biological science department, with the research adviser serving as chair. The director of the biological sciences program serves as an *ex-officio* member of all committees.

A program of course work must be approved by the research and advisory committee and filed with the director no later than the eighth week of the second semester of registration in the program. Any deviation from the course work program during the student's tenure must be approved by the research and advisory committee and filed with the director. The research plan for the thesis or research paper must be approved by the research and advisory committee and filed with the director no later than the end of the second semester of registration.

Non-Thesis Option

A total of 40 semester hours of 400- or 500-level courses is required with the following provisions:

1. A minimum of 26 semester hours of formal graded courses in the biological sciences required with no less than eight semester hours including one 400- or 500-level laboratory course in each of three of the biological sciences departments.
2. At least 15 semester hours of the total required must be at the 500 level.
3. At least one semester of seminar in each of three of the biological science departments must be attended for credit.
4. An overall 3.0 grade point average ($A = 4.0$) must be maintained with no course in which the grade is less than a C counting toward the degree requirements.
5. A research paper is required demonstrating the ability to collect and analyze data and to report interpreted results in a scientific manner. A library research problem is acceptable, but must include an original contribution of analysis and interpretation. No less than three nor more than six semester hours of "Research" may be counted for credit in meeting requirements. (*Only those courses listed as "Individual Research", Introduction to Research", etc. may be taken for credit. "Thesis Research" may not be used for this requirement.*)
6. A final oral examination is required, consisting of two parts:
 - a. a public presentation of the research paper and
 - b. a closed session of inquiry by the student's Research and Advisory Committee.

Thesis Option

A total of 30 semester hours of 400- or 500-level courses is required with the following provisions:

1. A minimum of 21 semester hours of formal graded courses in the biological sciences is required with no less than six semester hours coming from each of three of the biological science departments.
2. A least 15 semester hours of the total required must be at the 500 level.

3. At least one semester of seminar in two of the four biological science departments must be attended for credit.
4. An overall 3.0 grade point average ($A = 4.0$) must be maintained with no course in which the grade is less than a C counting toward the degree requirements.
5. A thesis embodying original research is required and may be counted for not less than three nor more than six semester hours of credit.
6. A final oral examination is required consisting of two parts:
 - a. A public presentation of the thesis research and a closed session of inquiry by the student's research and advisory committee.

Courses (BIOL)

601-1 Continuing Enrollment. For students who have not finished their degree programs and who are in the process of working on their dissertations, thesis, or research paper. The student must have completed a minimum of 24 hours of dissertation research, or the minimum thesis, or research hours before being eligible to register for this course. Concurrent enrollment in any course is not permissible. Graded S/U. Prerequisite: minimum hours as stated above.