Integrated Biology, M.S.

Requirements

The Master of Science program in integrated biology requires 30 s.h. of graduate credit with thesis or 34 s.h. of graduate credit without thesis. Students must maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00. Entering students are typically admitted only to the thesis program; however, students who decide not to continue their studies may opt for the nonthesis program.

Students must enroll in at least two advanced lecture courses (or courses approved by the Graduate Affairs Committee). In the first year, students enroll in BIOL:5512 Fundamental Genetics - Graduate Discussion in the fall semester and BIOL:6298 Concepts, Models, and Systems in Biology (COSMOS) Seminar in the fall and spring semesters. In subsequent years, students continue to enroll in BIOL:6298 for 1 s.h.

At the end of the first year, students take a qualifying exam that consists of essay questions based on major themes in biology. Students must perform satisfactorily on this exam in order to continue in the program. In the second year, students take one seminar course (2 s.h.) with significant writing and oral presentation components, as well as BIOL:6188 Seminar: Writing in Natural Sciences in the fall and spring semesters.

Thesis students may count a maximum of 9 s.h. of research credit toward the 30 s.h. required for the master's degree with thesis. Remaining coursework is tailored to a student’s background and career goals and is selected in consultation with the student's advisory committee. The thesis is based on original research. After the thesis is accepted by the student's supervisor and advisory committee, the student must pass an oral examination based on the thesis research and on related subjects. Nonthesis students must write a library research report for a maximum of 4 s.h. of credit. They may apply up to 8 s.h. of research credit toward the 34 s.h. required for the master's degree without thesis.

Visit the iBio Graduate Program web page for more detailed information about the Master of Science program.