

MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.)

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

PURPOSES

The purposes of the Department of Biological Sciences are to:

1. Provide a broad academic program on both the undergraduate and graduate levels for students of diverse biological interests.
2. Render varied services to the community, schools, educational groups, business organizations, and all other interested groups within the geographical locale of Southeastern Louisiana University.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for regular admission to the Master of Science Degree program in Biological Sciences, an applicant must:

1. Meet all University admission requirements.
2. Satisfactorily complete at least thirty (30) semester hours of undergraduate biology courses.
3. Submit at least a 1000 score on the General Test of the GRE. (Verbal and Quantitative)
4. Submit transcripts documenting a 3.0 undergraduate grade point average.
5. Submit two letters of recommendation, a curriculum vita, and a letter of intent to the Biological Sciences Graduate Coordinator, following procedures outlined on the Department's web page.
6. Students who do not meet the requirements for Regular Admission may be granted Conditional Admission upon approval by the Graduate Faculty and the Dean of the Graduate School. Students with Conditional status must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average during each term of enrollment or they will be terminated from the program. Other requirements may also be necessary as deemed appropriate by the Graduate Faculty. Conditional students may apply for regular admission at the end of each semester of enrollment. No more than 12 semester hours earned during Conditional status (and/or Non-Degree status) may be used in meeting degree requirements.

Up to 12 credits may be applied to the degree for a Conditional student who moves into Regular status. All courses will appear on the graduate transcript and in the GPA calculation. The Graduate Coordinator determines which courses will apply to the Degree Plan.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE-THESIS OPTION

Complete thirty (30) hours in an approved combination of biological sciences, including six (6) hours of thesis (General Biology 770).

Coursework must include Professional Aspects of Biology (GBIO 691) and an additional graduate seminar. No more than two (2) hours of Research Problems (GBIO 660) may be counted toward the degree.

In addition to preparation of the thesis, students are required to pass written and oral qualifying exams in general biology. To pass the written exam, students must score a 70%. This exam is offered during their first semester of enrollment in the graduate program. To pass the oral exam, students must receive passing grades from all members of the examination committee. The examination committee includes the student's thesis committee and at least one other member of the Graduate Faculty. Details on these requirements are available on the Department's web page.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE-NON-THESIS OPTION

Complete thirty-six (36) hours in an approved combination of biological sciences, including three hours of research Problems (GBIO 660), two hours of graduate seminar (GBIO 691), and no more than 10 hours of transfer credit. Students may take up to eight hours of approved courses from other departments at Southeastern. Students are also required to give an oral research presentation to the department (in conjunction with the Research Problems class) and pass a written comprehensive exam. Details on requirements are available on the Department's web page.