

# **Survey of Masters Degree Alumni Spring 2023**

**MS Biology Alumni**



**Institutional Research**

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

**Southeastern Louisiana University**

**Institutional Research**

**December 2023**

# MS Biology

## Satisfaction with Degree Program

Number of Respondents: 11					
	Very Dissatisfied - 1	2	3	4	Very Satisfied - 5
<b>Ability to read and listen carefully to ideas and information, to understand those ideas, and to convey them to other people using both language and modes (written, oral, digital) appropriate to the intended audience</b>					
MS Biology	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1% (1)	90.9% (10)
<b>Ability to define and to respond to problems, challenges, and opportunities by employing logical, informed, and creative solutions</b>					
MS Biology	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	27.3% (3)	72.7% (8)
<b>Ability to balance personal and professional challenges, to respond to changing realities, and to persevere through difficulty and unexpected situations</b>					
MS Biology	0.0%	0.0%	9.1% (1)	36.4% (4)	54.5% (6)
<b>Ability to work respectfully and productively with people from diverse backgrounds, identities, and perspectives</b>					
MS Biology	0.0%	0.0%	9.1% (1)	27.3% (3)	63.6% (7)
<b>Ability to learn, to actively pursue knowledge, and to continuously self-evaluate in current circumstances</b>					
MS Biology	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	18.2% (2)	81.8% (9)
<b>Ability to develop perspectives and understanding of the human experience</b>					
MS Biology	0.0%	0.0%	27.3% (3)	9.1% (1)	63.6% (7)
<b>Ability to communicate effectively in writing</b>					
MS Biology	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	18.2% (2)	81.8% (9)
<b>Ability to work as a team member</b>					
MS Biology	0.0%	0.0%	9.1% (1)	27.3% (3)	63.6% (7)
<b>Ability to work as a team leader</b>					
MS Biology	0.0%	0.0%	18.2% (2)	18.2% (2)	63.6% (7)
<b>Ability to accept responsibility</b>					
MS Biology	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	27.3% (3)	72.7% (8)

Satisfaction with Degree Program					
Number of Respondents: 25					
	Very Dissatisfied - 1	2	3	4	Very Satisfied - 5
Ability to engage with people from different local and global cultures					
MS Biology	0.0%	0.0%	36.4% (4)	0.0%	63.6% (7)
Ability to understand and demonstrate effective work habits and act in the interest of the larger community and workplace					
MS Biology	0.0%	0.0%	18.2% (2)	18.2% (2)	63.6% (7)
Satisfaction with Degree Program					
	No		Yes		
2. Would you recommend Southeastern to someone interested in what you majored in?					
MS Biology	18.2% (2)		81.8% (9)		

**What courses or curriculum requirements from the biology program have you found to be most useful or relevant since graduating? Why?**

- Cell biology - Dr. White Animal physiology - Dr. Valverde Bacterial metabolism, Genetics - Dr. Howard Medical parasitology - Dr. Dardis and Dr. Horzelski Seminar - Dr. Horzelski Technical writing - Dr. Sawyer Endocrinology - Dr. Murray Physiological psych - Dr. Baiamonte
- Aside from requirements I would say the advisor group sessions followed by evolutionary biology and computational biology since me being from a different background gave me a new perspective to problems.
- All courses and requirements have been useful. Teague's Technical Writting course was especially useful during the program and throughout my career.
- How to be a TA, R, Python, scientific writing. All these courses have given me skills I currently use in my PhD program.
- The graduate student seminars were very helpful in learning how to engage in scientific discussions, understand the literature, and lead group discussions in my new program.
- Historical Ecology Seminar courses
- All of them.
- Advanced biostats was a really hard but meaningful course. It showed me improper analysis of data will tell a completely different story. I also enjoyed the seminar courses for open discussions.

**What courses or curriculum requirements from the biology program have you found to be least useful or relevant since graduating? Why?**

- English literature, Spanish literature, biomedical technology
- Hard to say since I picked the courses that would match my interests and goals.
- Herpetology, historical ecology, evolution These topics are no longer relevant to my PhD focus
- The oral examination seems strange and antiquated in hindsight. As a practice thesis defense it perhaps holds some merit, except your project cannot be developed enough to present it in depth or great detail and thus it becomes more of a general lecture on material already supposedly covered by the written entrance exam. Instead the oral examination really seems like a method for insufficient advisors to ditch students that they were not prepared, either professionally or personally, to mentor. Regular committee meetings to foster the growth and direction of a developing project would be more beneficial to a master's student.
- I found most of the courses helpful in the long run. Even those which I don't use often, like mycology, were useful in showing me the basics of the subject and what criteria I can use to make identifications.

**Graduate Professional Education**

Seven (63.6%) of the respondents are currently enrolled in a graduate program, one in a professional program and six in a doctoral program. One (9.1%) has completed another Master's degree, one (9.1%) has taken classes but not enrolled in a degree program, and two (18.2%) have no plans for further education. Of the respondents with graduate experience, five (55.6%) felt that Southeastern "Very Effectively" prepared them for further graduate/professional study and four (44.4%) felt they were "Effectively" prepared. Of those who have earned a degree or enrolled in a program, five (71.4%) indicated the degree was "Very Closely Related" to their Master's degree and two (28.6%) indicated it was "Not at all Related".

**Employment**

Five (45.5%) of the respondents are currently employed full-time and five (45.5%) have a graduate assistanship. The rest of them employment information is based on those who are employed full-time. Most alumni (80.0%, n=4) are employed in the state of Louisiana, while one (20.0%) is employed outside the state. One (20.0%) is employed in higher education, two (40.0%) in government, one (20.0%) is self-employed, and one (20.0%) in K-12 education. Three (60.0%) respondents indicated their education was "Very Effective" in preparing them for employment or improving their job performance and two (40.0%) indicated it was "Effective". Two (40.0%) of the respondents are employed in the area of their Southeastern doctoral

degree and three (60.0%) in a related area. One (4.5%) respondent indicated a salary range of \$20,000-\$30,000, one (20.0%) indicated \$40,001-\$50,000, two (40.0%) indicated \$50,001-\$60,000, and one (20.0%) indicated \$60,001-\$70,000.

**What could the biology program have done better to prepare you for your current job?**

- Hard to say since I'm currently self employed and working outside of the US
- I felt fully prepared for my current job, sometimes over qualified to be honest.

**What advice would you give to a new biology major who might be looking to go into your career field?**

- Volunteer to assist current graduate students who's project question a range of topics.
- Be open minded. Look for science jobs broadly. Not everyone can study salamanders.

**Overall Satisfaction with Southeastern**

In general, respondents were satisfied with Southeastern. Eighty-two percent (81.8%, n=9) had a Very Positive general attitude toward Southeastern, and an additional 18.2% (n=2) had a Positive general attitude toward Southeastern. When asked if they would recommend Southeastern to a friend or family member considering graduate education, 63.6% (n=7) said they would with no reservations and 36.4% (n=4) indicated they would with some reservations.

All (100.0%) of the respondents indicated that if they were to do it again, they would elect to attend Southeastern for their Master's degree. Respondents were also asked if their college education had improved the quality of their life, regardless of the financial benefits. All (100.0%) of the respondents indicated that the quality of their life had improved.