

Ph.D. in Biological Science Description

The Ph.D. in biological science is a research degree. It prepares graduates for various academic, industrial, or governmental professional positions that involve freshwater biology, medicine, education, molecular genetics, ecology, and conservation biology.

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 54 Course Requirements

All students pursuing a Ph.D. degree must satisfactorily complete a research prospectus, a dissertation based on potentially publishable research, two seminars on their research (one of which is part of the defense), and an oral examination. Additional requirements may be stipulated by the advisory committee.

A minimum of 54 semester hours of graduate credit acceptable to the advisory committee are required, which must include 18 dissertation hours and at least 24 hours of formalized course work. All students must take Bisc 691 during the semesters in which they present seminars. The M.S. degree is not a prerequisite for the Ph.D. degree.

Once course work and presentation of the research prospectus have been completed, a written and oral comprehensive examination will be administered by the committee. Upon satisfactory completion of the comprehensive examination, satisfactory progress toward publication of research results, and before the student begins the final 12 months, the advisory committee shall request the department chair to recommend admission to candidacy. Students must complete all requirements for the degree within five years from the date of the comprehensive examination.

Other Academic Requirements

Dissertation Advisory Committee--During the first two semesters, a Ph.D. student should become familiar with the research programs in the department and establish an advisory committee. The committee's initial role is to recommend courses and approve a research topic. The committee is then responsible for evaluating the student's course work, research productivity, and knowledge of the research topic, and for approving the dissertation.

