

# M.S. in Biological Science

[Overview](#)

[Degree Requirements](#)

## Description

The M.S. in biological science prepares a student for various academic, industry, or government professional positions that involve freshwater biology, medicine, education, molecular genetics, ecology and conservation biology.

## Minimum Total Credit Hours: 30

## Course Requirements

A minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate credit acceptable to the advisory committee are required, which must include 6 thesis hours and at least 18 hours of formal classroom lectures, that is, courses that require regular attendance, study assignments, final exams and letter grades. All students must take Bisc 691 during the semesters in which they present a seminar. A cumulative average of not less than B (3.0) must be achieved in all graduate work taken.

All students pursuing a M.S. degree must satisfactorily complete a research prospectus, a thesis based on potentially publishable research, and one seminar on their research (which is part of the defense). Additional requirements may be stipulated by the advisory committee.

## Other Academic Requirements

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

