

College Document # CCC37

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**CATALOG YEAR 2016-2017**

COLLEGE/SCHOOL/SECTION: College of Arts and Sciences

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# **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY NON-THESIS**

**MAJOR CURRICULUM - BIOLOGY**

**36 SCH**

**Required courses:**

BIOL 5290 - Graduate Seminar<sup>1</sup>

BIOL 5401 - Biometry<sup>2</sup>

Twenty **eight four** hours chosen from:

Graduate biology courses except BIOL 5398 and 5399

**TOTAL**

**36 SCH**

<sup>1</sup> ~~To be repeated once when the topic changes to fulfill the requirement of four SCH. To be taken four times when the topic changes to fulfill the requirement of eight SCH.~~

<sup>2</sup>To be taken in the first three semesters of student's graduate work.

## **BIOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

To be admitted to MS in Biology:

1. A candidate must have a bachelor's degree in biology or related field (related fields such as Botany, Environmental Sciences (with a biology emphasis), Marine Science (with biology emphasis), Marine Biology, Microbiology, Neurobiology and Zoology).
2. An overall GPA of 2.5 or higher (on a 4 point scale) and a 3.0 GPA in biology (or related field). If the GPA in biology is between 2.75 and 3.0, the student may be admitted on probation and must earn a B or higher in the first 9 hours of graduate courses

in the program. If the overall GPA is below 2.5 or in biology below 2.75 the student will not be admitted.

3. No GRE will be required for admission to the Master of Science in Biology.

4. Approval of the graduate committee of the Department of Biology and Chemistry. The decision by the committee will be based on the interests the candidate has in biology and if a graduate faculty member can and will work with the candidate. The candidate's interest will be determined by the personal statement the candidates writes for admission. The statement should describe what research the students is interested in doing in the program and how working with a faculty member(s) in the Department can achieve this. Students are strongly encouraged to conact potential mentors prior to applying.

5. Admission to the thesis program will be determined by the acceptance of the student by an advisor. A student's admission for a thesis can be denied because the student's interest does not match any research program available. A student can be admitted to the non-thesis but the students will be required to take a comprehensive exam and to write and defend a library based review paper on a topic in biology decided on by the student and the student's advisory committee to complete the degree.

A candidate applying for the MS in Biology without a degree in biology or related field can be admitted if the candidate takes the required stemwork. The following are normally the minimum requirements as preparation for graduate coursework: CHEM 1311/1111, CHEM 1412, CHEM 2423, BIOL1306/1106, BIOL 1311/1111, BIOL 1413, BIOL 3406, BIOL 3410, BIOL 3412 and BIOL 3413. A candidate without a degree in biology must have an overall GPA of 2.5 in their bachelor's program and a GPA of 3.0 in stemwork for the Master in Biology, including chemistry, to be admitted to the program. In addition, the student should give a justification that is accepted by the graduate committee of the Department of Biology and Chemistry why they are seeking a degree in biology. The GPA includes stem work taken before the application and all stem work required by the graduate committee of the Department of Biology and Chemistry to fulfill the requirement.

Justification: Four graduate seminars are untenable at this time and adding a review paper to make the non-thesis degree more rigorous.

Approvals:	Signature	Date
Chair Department Curriculum Committee	_____	_____
Chair Department	_____	_____
Chair College Curriculum Committee	_____	_____
Dean	_____	_____
Provost	_____	_____