

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (MA)

A program of study leading to the Master of Arts degree in Biology is designed for students who:

- Have a strong desire to increase their understanding of the life sciences.
- Plan additional education at the master's level for increased proficiency in teaching. This program is not intended for those students pursuing technical and/or laboratory research-related careers, or planning to continue study towards the PhD degree.

Program Requirements	Quarter Hours
Degree Requirements	50
Total hours required	50

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Apply biology knowledge to design a scientific study to test an original hypothesis.
- Distinguish among the diversity of fields and approaches within Biology.
- Critically analyze and evaluate the validity of scientific findings.
- Effectively communicate scientific information in both written and oral formats.

Degree Requirements

Course Requirements

50 hours of graduate credit including:

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
BIO 402	INTRODUCTION TO GRADUATE STUDIES	2
BIO 403	DEVELOPMENT OF TOPICS FOR RESEARCH	4
BIO 494	COMMUNICATING SCIENCE	4
Select three courses from the Ecology, Evolution and Population Biology core area		12
Select three courses from the Genetics, Cell and Molecular Biology core area		12
Select three courses from the Physiology and Neurobiology core area		12
BIO 499	THESIS RESEARCH	4

Core Areas of Study

Ecology, Evolution, and Population Biology

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
BIO 415	TOPICS IN ECOLOGY	
BIO 417	AQUATIC BIOLOGY	
BIO 419	TOPICS IN BEHAVIORAL PARASITOLOGY	
BIO 421	MOLECULAR METHODS IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION	
BIO 432	POPULATION ECOLOGY	
BIO 435	CONCEPTS IN EVOLUTION	

BIO 445	TOPICS IN PALEOBIOLOGY
BIO 489	RESEARCH IN FIELD BIOLOGY

Genetics, Cell and Molecular Biology

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
BIO 409	PLANT PHYSIOLOGY	
BIO 421	MOLECULAR METHODS IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION	
BIO 425	CELLULAR EVENTS IN THE IMMUNE RESPONSE	
BIO 430	DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY	
BIO 439	CELLULAR NEUROBIOLOGY	
BIO 447	TOPICS IN MEDICAL BACTERIOLOGY	
BIO 448	THE BIOLOGY OF INFECTION	
BIO 449	TOPICS IN MICROBIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY	
BIO 455	GENETIC TOXICOLOGY	
BIO 460	MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	
BIO 461	TOPICS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	
BIO 462	ADVANCED GENETIC ANALYSIS	
BIO 471	IMMUNOBIOLOGY	
BIO 475	INTRODUCTION TO PHARMACOLOGY	
BIO 480	CANCER BIOLOGY	
BIO 481	TOPICS IN CANCER	
BIO 486	ENDOCRINOLOGY	

Physiology and Neurobiology

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
BIO 409	PLANT PHYSIOLOGY	
BIO 412	TOPICS IN EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY	
BIO 439	CELLULAR NEUROBIOLOGY	
BIO 440	BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE	
BIO 441	TOPICS IN NEUROBIOLOGY	
BIO 442	COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE	
BIO 452	ADVANCED COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY	
BIO 465	PRINCIPLES OF TOXICOLOGY	
BIO 475	INTRODUCTION TO PHARMACOLOGY	
BIO 485	MAMMALIAN REPRODUCTION	
BIO 486	ENDOCRINOLOGY	
BIO 489	RESEARCH IN FIELD BIOLOGY	

BIO 490, as appropriate, may also be approved in one of the three core areas.

BIO 406 can be taken as an elective.

Advancement to Candidacy

Based upon results of a qualifying examination taken near the end of the third quarter of the student's first full year of course work.

Final Project Requirement

Based upon an independent library research project under the supervision of a faculty member. Up to four credit hours of BIO 499 may be taken to complete the Final Project.

Program Graduate Academic Student Handbook

Academic Probation

Students are expected to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00. If a student's cumulative GPA falls below this minimum the student will be put on academic probation and will have one quarter of coursework to raise their cumulative GPA up to at least a 3.00 or face academic dismissal from the program. If the student's cumulative GPA goes below the minimum a second time, they will be academically dismissed from the program.

Academic Dismissal

Students may be dismissed for breaches of academic integrity, breaches of the code of student responsibility, or violations of satisfactory progress, including but not limited to, failing a retake of the oral qualifying exam, not maintaining at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA, or lack of progress towards degree completion. Students who have completed their coursework, but who are still working on their final project (MA) must be enrolled in candidacy continuation during the three quarters of the academic school year. Failure to enroll in candidacy continuation will result in dismissal from the program.

Readmission

If a student leaves the program for any reason they must reapply to the program unless prior agreement for readmission has been granted by the Director of Graduate Studies in Biology (hereafter, Program Director). A specific timeline for readmission must be specified and agreed to by the Program Director prior to the student leaving the program.

Transfer Credit

Two semester courses or three quarter courses from another institution or program may be accepted as transfer credit upon approval of the Program Director and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies. Credit will only be transferred for courses that have equivalents in the DePaul curriculum as determined by the Program Director. Transfer credit can only be awarded for graduate level coursework which has not counted toward the completion of a degree at DePaul or any other institution.

Undergraduate Courses

No undergraduate courses will be counted towards the graduate degree.

Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate, students must satisfy the degree requirements as specified in the course catalog for MA degrees, including but not limited to maintaining a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00.

Graduation with Distinction

This program does not offer the "With Distinction" designation at the time of graduation.

Time Limitation

Students pursuing a master's degree must complete all requirements for the master's degree within a maximum of six years from their first term of enrollment in the program.