

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, PH.D.

Degree Requirements (30 Post-Masters Hours)

Students choose a Major Professor and form an Advisory Committee during their first year. A curriculum, tailored to each student, is developed with and approved by the Advisory Committee and submitted to the Graduate School as the Program of Study. Students take a Qualifying Examination at the end of their first year, comprised of a short written and orally defended Research Plan focusing on planned research in the laboratory of their Major Professor; this Research Plan is developed in consultation with the Major Professor and presented to a committee selected by the Department Chair. Upon Advancement to Candidacy, the Advisory Committee becomes the student's Dissertation Committee. Students present a dissertation plan in the form of a Research Proposal to their Dissertation Committee and take a Comprehensive Examination; the formats of both Research Proposal and Comprehensive Examination are determined by the Dissertation Committee. Finally, students write and orally defend a research based Dissertation. PhD students entering without M.S. degrees must complete at least 60 hours of course credit including multiple credits of BIOL 798 and 12 credits of BIOL 899. Ph.D. students entering with a M.S. degree must complete at least 30 hours of course credit including multiple credits of BIOL 798 and 12 credits of BIOL 899. Ph.D. students are required to have teaching experience equivalent to two semesters as a Teaching or Instructional Assistant, unless waived on appeal by the Department Graduate Studies Committee.