Program Requirements

Both Master of Science degree programs (Plan A and Plan B) require a minimum of 30 semester hours of courses at the 300 level or higher. A minimum of 18 semester hours of formal coursework is required for the thesis degree, and a minimum of 27 semester hours of formal coursework for the non-thesis degree. The remaining credits may be research credits (BIOL 601 and BIOL 651). The Entrepreneurial Biotechnology (EB) is a two-year Plan A professional Master of Science degree in Biology. The EB program includes four required courses, an internship, and electives to make up the 30 semester hours. The thesis is based on a real entrepreneurial project with an existing company or your own startup (the internship).

Plan A (Thesis)

All candidates must complete a total of 30 credit hours in coursework at the 300 level or higher within 5 years of matriculation into the graduate program. At least 18 of these credit hours must be at the 400 level or above. Further, at least 15 credit hours must be in courses offered by the biology department. The remaining course work may include courses offered by any department within the University, subject to an advisor’s approval and School of Graduate Studies regulations.

Candidates are limited to 3 credit hours of BIOL 601, but may take up to 9 credit hours of BIOL 651.

According to rules of the School of Graduate Studies, once a candidate registers for BIOL 651, the registration must continue for a minimum of 1 credit per semester until completion of the degree program.

Students who are uncertain about completing requirements for a Plan A Master of Science degree should consult the regulations for the Plan B Master of Science degree. These two master’s degrees have different regulations concerning use of BIOL 601. A candidate may wish to use BIOL 599; the letter grade assigned will reflect the evaluation by the entire Advisory Committee.

Plan B (Non-thesis)

All candidates must complete a total of 30 credit hours in course work at the 300 level or higher. At least 18 of these credit hours must be at the 400 levels or above. Further, at least 15 credit hours must be in courses offered by the Biology Department. At least one course must be taken in each of the following areas of biology: cell and molecular biology (including chemical biology), organismal biology, and population biology. The remaining course work may include courses offered by any department within the University, subject to the advisor’s approval and School of Graduate Studies regulations.

Candidates are limited to a total of 6 credit hours of independent study (up to 3 credits of BIOL 599 and up to 3 credits of BIOL 601). BIOL 599 requires completion of a Course Proposal Form (available in the Biology Departmental Office) and approval by the advisor. In the case of enrollment in BIOL 599, the letter grade assigned will reflect the evaluation by a two-person committee recruited by the student and advisor.