

Department of Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences

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Full Graduate Faculty: Bingham, Cepeda, Ghosh, Hyde,
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Discipline	Course Prefix
Biology	BIOL
Environmental Science	ENVR

NOTE: See the "Academic Courses and Abbreviations" and "Course Descriptions" sections of this catalog for a complete list of courses offered by the University.

Master of Science (M.S.) Degree

Admission Requirements

In addition to University requirements for admission, the applicant must:

- Have a bachelor's degree in biology, in environmental science or in a related field from an accredited institution.
- Complete all requirements for admission to Graduate School before the end of the second semester of course work toward the master's degree, including leveling courses.
- Submit a satisfactory score (950) from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Applicants not meeting these criteria may apply for conditional admission. (See the "Graduate School" section of this catalog.)
- Have an overall grade point average of a minimum of 2.6 or a minimum of 2.85 in the last 60 hours of undergraduate work.

Probationary admission may be granted for students with less than the minimum grade point average or test scores following a probationary period of 12–15 hours of enrollment in graduate work with no grade below a "B." Students with undergraduate degrees in fields other than biology or environmental science may be required to complete specific leveling courses.

International students desiring to pursue the master of science degree in biology or environmental science must score a minimum of 575 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam as well as meet above-mentioned admission requirements.

Major in Biology (Major Code: 5102)

The Department of Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences offers students a master of science degree in biology. Department faculty provide opportunities for research (see below) which lead to a degree with thesis. A research-thesis program is recommended for those students planning to continue their education to the doctorate level or for students seeking a career that requires research training in biology. A non-thesis degree program is also available.

Research Concentration Areas

- Anatomy
- Aquatic Biology
- Entomology
- Genetics
- Herpetology
- Invertebrate Systematics
- Mammalogy
- Microbial Genetics
- Microbiology
- Molecular Cytogenetics
- Parasitology
- Physiology of Animals
- Plant Ecology
- Reptilian Evolution
- Wildlife Behavior

General Requirements

Thesis Program

Thirty hours of graduate credit with the following restrictions:

- Not less than 15 hours credit from 6000-level and above courses to include Thesis 6301 and 6302.
- Not less than 18 hours credit from formal biology courses of which nine must be 6000 level (excluding BIOL 6301 and 6302).
- Not more than 12 hours credit by transfer.

Non-Thesis Program

Thirty-six hours of graduate credit with the following restrictions:

- Not less than 18 hours credit from formal biology courses of which 15 must be 6000 level (excluding BIOL 6395 and 6397).
- Not more than 15 hours of credit by transfer.
- Not more than six hours credit from BIOL 6395 and 6397.

Financial Assistance

Six graduate assistantships and selected scholarships are available for graduate students.

Department of Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Major in Environmental Sciences

(Major Code: 5105)

Study Area Options

Areas of Specialization: agriculture, biology, chemistry, geology and engineering technology.

Requirements

Student must complete 36 credit hours of required and elective specialization courses.

Master of Science Degree Core Requirements

(21 hours)

- ENVR 6303, 6305, 6509, 6111, 6320, 6350, POSC 6330 or ECON 6352.

Additional Requirements for Thesis (6 hours)

- ENVR 6301 and 6302.

Additional Requirements for Non-Thesis (6 hours)

- ENVR 6395 and 6098.

Elective Courses in Specialization Area (9 hours)

Agriculture, biology, chemistry, geology and engineering technology.