

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, MA

The Master of Arts (MA) in Biological Sciences is a course-work only degree designed for individuals who wish to enhance their knowledge of foundational concepts in Biological Sciences and gain practical hands-on training in controlled laboratory exercises, data analysis and presentation as well as scientific pedagogical practices. This degree does not require the traditional intensive commitment to data-driven research that is the hallmark of the Master of Science (MS) degree in Biology.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the Biological Sciences (M.A.) Degree program will be based on an overall appraisal of the ability to undertake master's education. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended will be reviewed for coursework and for a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale. For specific information on the application process, interested students are encouraged to visit the Department of Biological Sciences website. Permission to continue admission may be considered and will follow those guidelines set forth by the University of Alabama Graduate School.

For international applicants requirements for this degree program will adhere to the University of Alabama Graduate School policies concerning English language test scores.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Degree Requirements

Code and Title	Hours
Courses Required for All M.A. Students	
BSC 604 or Sci Writing and Presentation	3
BSC 695 Spec Topics Biolog Sci	
BSC 505 Intro to Grad Studies	2
BSC 601 Biological Sciences Seminar (required each semester in residence at the Tuscaloosa campus)	1
At least one course designated as laboratory	3-4
BSC 525 Human Physiology Lab	
BSC 539 Bch/Molecular Biology Lab	
BSC 542 Integrated Genomics	
BSC 569 Histology Of Vertebrates	
BSC 573 Bioinformatics	
BSC 581 Foundations in Advanced Biostatistics with Applications to R	
BSC 656 Microscopical Techniques	
BSC 564 Biology Of Algae	
BSC 572 Mycology	
BSC 575 General Entomology	
BSC 576 Aquatic Insects	
Credit Hours Subtotal:	9-10
Biology Electives	8-20
BSC 511 Phage Discovery Laboratory	
BSC 515 Wetland Ecology	
BSC 517 Environmental Modeling	
BSC 522 Biology of Cancer	
BSC 524 Human Physiology	
BSC 531 Pathogenic Microbiology	
BSC 541 Developmental Biology	

BSC 544	General Virology	
BSC 548	Animal Behavior	
BSC 549	Endocrinology	
BSC 550	Fundamentals of Biochemistry	
BSC 551	Bch/Molecular Biology II	
BSC 556	Microbial Ecology	
BSC 570	Prin Pop Genetics	
BSC 571	Plant Physiology	
BSC 580	Plant Ecology	
BSC 582	Conservation Biology	
BSC 583	Evolution	
BSC 587	Biogeography	
BSC 590	Stream Ecology	
BSC 594	Signal Transduction Neuroby	
BSC 595	Advanced Cell Biology	
BSC 666	Disease Models and Mechanisms	
BSC 675	Global Change Biology	
BSC 695	Spec Topics Biolog Sci	
Total Hours		30
BSC 696	Resident Study	2-6

The M.A. degree in Biological Sciences is a plan II non-thesis degree path only. In addition to lecture-based coursework, all M.A. students will be required to enroll in one laboratory skills course (the selection of which should reflect their career interests and are identified in the above chart by (L) designations). Additionally, as is required of all plan II master's students in the UA Graduate School, all Biological Sciences (M.A.) students must complete a Capstone Experience. For this degree the Capstone Experience will entail the writing of a literature-based survey of a biological topic selected by the student and approved by a departmental faculty Advisory Committee and culminate with a final oral, public presentation on the topic.