

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Graduate Program

Graduate training provides students with unparalleled opportunities for scientific research and career development. Historically, most students have enrolled in the Ph.D. program, but a thesis-based M.S. program is also available. Graduate students conduct research under the supervision of a faculty advisory committee. The Ph.D. curriculum includes graduate courses, an advancement examination with written and oral components, and an original dissertation with an oral defense typically completed within five years of enrollment. The M.S. program requires 28 units of coursework along with a research proposal, original thesis, and oral defense typically completed within two or three years.

Applicants for this program should have a solid undergraduate program in biology and ecology, emphasizing both research and fieldwork. In addition, course work in statistics, mathematics, and physical and chemical sciences is expected. The deadline for application is December 1.

The graduate program offers both the Plan I M.S. and the Ph.D. in Biological Sciences.

Requirements

Students are required to complete a minimum of four core courses during their first six academic quarters. Two of those courses are required graduate-level courses that all students must take:

ECO EVO 204	Writing Grant Proposals
ECO EVO 207	Quantitative Methods in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

In addition, students must take two additional courses (3-4 units each) at the graduate level. The courses can be taken from any department on campus, but must be approved by the student's committee as relevant to their area of research. Both courses should be taken at the graduate level. A list of some acceptable courses in EEB includes but is not limited to:

ECO EVO 208	Ecological and Evolutionary Physiology
ECO EVO 227L	Physiological Plant Ecology Lab
ECO EVO 205	Special Topics in Ecology
ECO EVO 206	Special Topics in Evolution
ECO EVO 282	Fundamentals of Informatics for Biologists
ECO EVO 247	Behavioral Endocrinology
ECO EVO 253	Functional and Structural Evolutionary Genomics

If a student wishes to request an exception (an exemption or a substitution), the student must submit a written request justifying the reason to the Graduate Advisor. The Graduate Advisor and the student's Advisory Committee (or prior to the formation of the Advisory Committee, the Prescription Committee) will decide whether to grant the request with final approval by Graduate Division.

Students who enter the program through the Gateway Program are required to take ECO EVO 204 and one additional course at the graduate level in the dissertation topic area.

Students are required to maintain a grade point average of B or greater in the five core courses required for that student. The grade of B- is not considered a passing grade for a graduate student. Students must pass the four core courses by the end of their second academic year. Any extensions of this deadline require approval by the Graduate Advisor. In the event a student receives an Incomplete in any of the core courses, the deficiency must be cleared by the deadline specified by the Graduate Advisor.

Teaching Requirement

To ensure that all students gain teaching experience, all students are required to serve as Teaching Assistants for a minimum of one quarter for M.S. students and two quarters for Ph.D. students. These are minima, and students may teach additional quarters during their program.

Research

Students should register for research units (ECO EVO 200A, ECO EVO 200B, or ECO EVO 200C) under their faculty advisor's section each academic quarter. Graduate students are advised on their research by a faculty advisor and a three-person advisory committee with whom the student meets at least twice each year. The progress of each student is reviewed by the student's advisory committee, together with the Graduate Advisor, twice each academic year.

Advancement to Candidacy and Normative Time for Completion

Doctoral students who Advance to Candidacy meet the M.S. degree requirements can receive the M.S. degree by submitting the M.S. degree advancement to candidacy paperwork, and then submitting the M.S. degree completion paperwork in a subsequent quarter.

The normative time for completion of the Ph.D. is five years, and the maximum time permitted is seven years. All requirements for the M.S. degree should be completed within two years, with a maximum of three years allowed for completion of the program. Advancement to doctoral candidacy by an oral examination is expected during the third year.