

Master of Science (MS) Biology

Degree Program

A minimum of 30 credit hours is required. The only course required of all students is two semesters of Graduate Seminar.

Non-thesis option: students take one laboratory course or two credit hours of research. A maximum of five credit hours of research will be counted toward the 30 credit-hour total.

Thesis option: students conduct independent research in the laboratory or field that culminates in a written thesis. A maximum of 13 credit hours of graduate research will be counted toward the 30 credit-hour total.

Emphasis Areas

1. Cell and Molecular Biology
2. Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics
3. Professional Science in Cellular & Molecular Biology

Program Website: <http://www.umsl.edu/~biology/Graduate%20Programs/program.html>

Application Requirements

1. Application
 - a. <http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/prospective/apply-now.html>
2. Three letters of recommendation from previous professors
3. Official transcripts from all universities attended
 - a. Successful applicants will have completed advanced undergraduate biology courses including genetics, biochemistry, and evolution and must have a baccalaureate degree before beginning the master's program.
 - b. Students admitted to the degree program who have not met some of the prerequisites may be asked to pass appropriate courses before graduating.
4. Entrance examinations
 - a. The Graduate Record Examination General Test is not required but is highly recommended for positive consideration (see <http://www.gre.org/ttindex.html>).
 - b. International students are required to document English proficiency by providing scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination before a decision is made on admission. Ordinarily, a minimum score of 213 on the computer-based exam or 79 minimum score on the internet-based exam (550 on the paper-based exam) is required.
5. Grade Point Average
 - a. Minimum of 3.0 on 4.0 scale overall and in biology courses

Application Deadline

- **Fall:** July 1 w/o financial support **OR** December 15 w/ financial support
- **Spring:** December 15 w/o financial support

Application Fee

\$50 for domestic applicants; \$40 for international applicants

Assistantships

Assistantships are currently funded at \$ 8,000 per academic term plus educational fee scholarships. Students must maintain full-time status and can receive funding for up to two years. Applications for assistantships are sent directly to the Director of Graduate Studies.

Graduate Program Director

Dr. Teresa Thiel

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