

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES - ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY - PH.D.

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Biological Sciences
www.kent.edu/biology/graduate

About This Program

The Biological Sciences - Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Ph.D. program offers a rigorous curriculum that prepares you for a wide range of leadership roles in the field. With access to state-of-the-art research facilities, experienced faculty, and real-world opportunities, you'll gain the skills and knowledge needed to conduct groundbreaking research and make a meaningful impact in the industry. Read more...

Contact Information

- Program Coordinator: **Oscar Rocha** | bscigrad@kent.edu | 330-672-2297
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Biological science teachers, postsecondary

- 9.3% much faster than the average
- 64,700 number of jobs
- \$85,600 potential earnings

Biological scientists, all other

- 2.2% slower than the average
- 44,700 number of jobs
- \$85,290 potential earnings

Environmental science teachers, postsecondary

- 3.7% about as fast as the average
- 7,600 number of jobs
- \$84,740 potential earnings

Natural sciences managers

- 4.8% about as fast as the average
- 71,400 number of jobs
- \$137,940 potential earnings

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university
- Strong background in biology and related subjects such as chemistry and mathematics¹
- Minimum 2.750 GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s) - copies of official transcripts can be submitted for initial review of application
- Résumé or curriculum vitae
- Personal statement that clearly explains why the applicant wishes to pursue an advanced degree, describes research experience and interest; statement must include a list of potential faculty mentors
- Three letters of recommendation that comment on chance of success in an advanced degree program, with minimum one from someone who can comment on research aptitude
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning one of the following:
 - Minimum 587 TOEFL PBT score (paper-based version)
 - Minimum 94 TOEFL IBT score (Internet-based version)
 - Minimum 82 MELAB score
 - Minimum 7.0 IELTS score
 - Minimum 65 PTE score
 - Minimum 120 Duolingo English test score

¹ Student deficiencies in these areas at the time of admission shall be rectified during the first year of graduate study.

Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
 - Priority deadline: December 1
Applications submitted by this deadline will receive the strongest consideration for admission.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
BSCI 70104	BIOLOGICAL STATISTICS	4
BSCI 70184	RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING-BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES ¹	2
BSCI 70191	SEMINAR IN BIOLOGY (taken 2-4 times)	2-4
Additional Electives		14-16
Student Seminar Presentation ²		
Majors Electives, choose from the following:		6
BSCI 70370	ECOLOGICAL AND EVOLUTIONARY GENETICS	

BSCI 70371	EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY	
BSCI 70372	COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS	
BSCI 70373	POPULATION AND COMMUNITY ECOLOGY	
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
BSCI 80199	DISSERTATION I ³	30
Minimum Total Credit Hours for Post-Baccalaureate Students		90
Minimum Total Credit Hours for Post-Master's Students		60

¹ Students are required to take BSCI 70184 their first semester (or the following fall semester for those starting their studies in the spring semester).

² Students are required to present at least one departmental seminar about their work.

³ Each doctoral candidate, upon admission to candidacy, must register for BSCI 80199 for a total of 30 credit hours. It is expected that a doctoral candidate will continuously register for BSCI 80199, and thereafter BSCI 80299, each semester, until all requirements for the degree have been met. It is expected that candidates will present the results of their research in a defense open to students and faculty, at which the dissertation will be presented and defended before the dissertation committee, with not more than one negative vote, in order to be recommended to the Department of Biological Sciences and the College of Arts and Sciences for degree conferral.

Graduation Requirements

Students entering the program with a bachelor's degree must complete a minimum 20 credit hours of graduate courses beyond BSCI 80198 toward their degree. Students entering the program with a master's degree should consult with their guidance committee to determine how many courses are required.

Candidacy for the Degree

After completing the required coursework, students complete the doctoral program by being admitted to candidacy, by proposing a research project to the faculty and by completing and defending that research with a written dissertation before a faculty committee.

Candidacy Exams: Students are admitted to doctoral candidacy following successful completion of both written and oral candidacy examinations. These exams are based on prior coursework and coursework taken in this graduate program as determined by students' academic Guidance Committee, which must consist of at least three eligible faculty members. The advisor(s) and a majority of members of the Guidance Committee must be members of the appropriate graduate program. This committee is responsible for determining the student's academic curriculum and for administering the candidacy exams. Following successful completion of candidacy exams, students register for dissertation - BSCI 80199 for two semesters and, thereafter, for BSCI 80299 continually until complete.

Prospectus: Following completion of the candidacy exam, students must successfully prepare, present and defend a formal prospectus of the research project before their dissertation committee.

Dissertation and Final Defense: Doctoral candidates must complete a dissertation. It is expected that candidates will present the results of their research in a defense open to students and faculty, during which they will present and defend before the dissertation committee, with not more than one negative vote, in order to be recommended to the department and College of Arts and Sciences for degree conferral.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Understand advanced biological concepts beyond the scope of the typical undergraduate degree, and increase the depth of their knowledge through coursework and hands-on experiences.
2. Apply scientific principles and appreciate work outside of their particular field.
3. Effectively communicate about science with colleagues as well as those outside of the student's area of expertise.
4. Develop the necessary laboratory skills that will allow testing of hypotheses.

Full Description

The Ph.D. degree in Biological Sciences - Ecology and Evolutionary Biology provides opportunities to study in areas such as animal behavior, entomology, limnology, microbial ecology, ornithology, systems ecology, systematic and evolutionary biology, environmental physiology, vertebrate ecology and population and community ecology. Although courses of study are tailored to students' interests and needs, the program for all students normally includes training in population, community, ecosystems and evolutionary ecology and statistical theory. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of ecology, students are encouraged to take courses in geology, mathematics, chemistry and other disciplines.