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 their area of expertise.

4. Develop the necessary laboratory skills that will allow testing of hypotheses.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Admission to the Ph.D. in Biological Sciences—Botany has been temporarily suspended as of fall 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 70184</td>
<td>RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING-BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>0-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 70370</td>
<td>ECOLOGICAL AND EVOLUTIONARY GENETICS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 70371</td>
<td>EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 70372</td>
<td>COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 80199</td>
<td>DISSERTATION I</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Requirements

Minimum Total Credit Hours for Post-Baccalaureate Students

Minimum Total Credit Hours for Post-Master’s Students

1 Students who will serve as teaching assistants are required to take BSCI 70184 their first semester (or the following fall semester for those starting their studies in spring semester). Students who are not teaching assistants do not have to take the course; however, they must complete an additional 2 credit hours of additional coursework to meet the minimum credit hours to graduate.

2 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 Dissertation I, and thereafter BSCI 80299, each semester, including summer, until all requirements for the degree have been met.

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: The student is 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 the student’s 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, the student registers for dissertation - BSCI 80199 for two semesters and, thereafter, for BSCI 80299 continually until complete.

Prospectus: Following completion of the candidacy exam, the doctoral student must successfully prepare, present and defend a formal
prospectus of the research project before his or her dissertation committee.

**Dissertation and Final Defense:** The doctoral candidate must complete a dissertation. It is expected that the candidate will present the results of her or his 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 and College of Arts and Sciences for degree conferral.