

2011-13 Cal Poly Catalog**Biological Sciences Department****MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES****General Characteristics**

This degree offers a broad background in the biological sciences. The program is designed to offer sufficient breadth and depth to strengthen the student's academic understanding and improve competence for: (a) many types of biological work that require advanced training beyond the bachelor's degree; (b) careers in industry and/or civil service; (c) teaching biological sciences at the elementary, secondary, and community college levels. This degree differs from the MS in Biological Sciences in that a research thesis is not required.

Prerequisites

Admission as a conditionally classified or classified student in this program requires a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the last 90 quarter units attempted, submission of scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and the Biology Subject GRE, and letters of recommendation from persons knowing your academic potential.

Advancement to candidacy requires a satisfactory background in biology, and completion of 12 units of courses specified in an informal study plan with a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Information pertaining to specific departmental requirements for admission to graduate standing—classified or graduate standing—conditionally classified may be obtained from the Director of the Graduate and Research Committee (Graduate Coordinator) of the Biological Sciences Department.

Program of Study

The formal program of study for the degree must include 45 units of committee-approved graduate work, at least 30 units of which must be at the 500 level. A grade point average of 3.0 or better is required in all courses included in the Formal Study Plan. Coursework must include 32 units within the Biological Sciences Department at Cal Poly. Only 4 units of BIO 575 College Teaching Practicum can be used; a maximum of 6 units of BIO 590 Seminar in Biology can be used in the Formal Study Plan. To complete the degree the GRE Advanced Biology exam must be passed with a score of 650 or higher. The culminating experience is a comprehensive written exam covering three areas of biology.

CURRICULUM FOR MA BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES*Units*

Required courses	19
BIO 501 Molecular and Cellular Biology (4)	
BIO 502 Biology of Organisms (4)	
BIO 503 Population Biology (4)	
BIO 590 Seminar in Biology (3)	
BIO 500 Individual Study (4)	
Advisor approved electives 500-level	11
Advisor approved electives 400- or 500-level	15
Satisfactory completion of the comprehensive examinations.	

45

All 45 units must be acceptable for graduate credit and in accordance with Graduate Guidelines of the Biological Sciences Department. For further information, students should communicate with the Chair of the Biological Sciences Department or with the Director of the Graduate and Research Committee.