

## Biological Sciences

biologicalsciences.siu.edu/

### COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

The biological sciences program provides broad interdisciplinary graduate training in biology leading to the Master of Science degree. This interdisciplinary program utilizes the faculty, facilities and courses of the Departments of Microbiology, Physiology, Plant Biology and Zoology. The program is designed for those students who desire a broad-based curriculum rather than an in-depth concentration in only one of the biological sciences.

#### Requirements for Admission

All applicants must submit an application to the biological sciences program. Applicants must meet the minimal requirements of the Graduate School before being considered for admission to Biological Sciences. A completed application includes the program application form, three letters of recommendation, and transcripts of all previous college credit.

This program requires a nonrefundable \$65 application fee that must be submitted with the application for Admissions to Graduate Study in Biological Sciences. Applicants must pay this fee by credit card.

In addition to Graduate School admission requirements, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree in a life science discipline. Specific options and concentrations may have additional prerequisites, as noted below.

Application forms are available online at [gradschool.siu.edu/applygrad](http://gradschool.siu.edu/applygrad).

#### Non-Thesis Option

Admission requirements: 37 semester hours of undergraduate courses distributed among any four of the biological science areas (plant biology, microbiology, physiology and zoology); organic chemistry with laboratory; physics; statistics. Applicants deficient in these background areas may be admitted, but any deficiency must be successfully completed before the third semester of registration in the program.

Advisement: No later than the end of the first semester of registration in the program, the student must arrange with a faculty member in one of the four biological science departments to serve as the research adviser. Following selection and approval of the adviser, an advisory committee is to be recommended to the director of the Biological Sciences Program for approval by the dean of the Graduate School. This committee shall consist of at least three members, each from a different biological science department, with the research advisor serving as chair. A program of course work must be approved by the advisory committee and filed with the director no later than the eighth week of the second semester of registration in the program. Any deviation from the course work program during the student's tenure must be approved by the advisory committee and filed with the director. A proposal for the research paper must be approved by the advisory committee and filed with the director no later than the end of the second semester of registration.

Graduation requirements include a total of 40 semester hours of 400- or 500-level courses with the following provisions:

1. A minimum of 26 semester hours of formal graded

courses in the biological sciences required with no less than eight semester hours including one 400- or 500-level laboratory course in each of three of the biological sciences departments.

2. At least 15 semester hours of the total required must be at the 500 level.
3. At least one semester of seminar in each of three of the biological science departments must be attended for credit.
4. An overall 3.0 grade point average ( $A = 4.0$ ) must be maintained with no course in which the grade is less than a *C* counting toward the degree requirements.
5. A research paper is required demonstrating the ability to collect and analyze data and to report interpreted results in a scientific manner. A library research problem is acceptable, but must include an original contribution of analysis and interpretation. No less than three nor more than six semester hours of "Research" may be counted for credit in meeting requirements. (*Only those courses listed as "Individual Research", Introduction to Research", etc. may be taken for credit. "Thesis Research" may not be used for this requirement.*)
6. A final oral examination is required, consisting of two parts:
  - a. a public presentation of the research paper and
  - b. a closed session of inquiry by the student's Research and Advisory Committee.

#### MEDPREP Concentration (Non-Thesis)

Admission requirements: Each student must apply and be accepted to the MEDPREP program in the SIU School of Medicine.

Advisement: Students are advised by MEDPREP faculty in the SIU School of Medicine. Advisement arrangements are made immediately after admission.

Graduation requirements include a minimum of 47 semester hours of 400- or 500-level courses with the following provisions:

1. A minimum of 20 semester hours of formal course work in the biological sciences and 12 hours of formal coursework in MEDPREP.
2. At least 15 semester hours of the total required must be at the 500 level.
3. A minimum of 12 semester hours of course work in MEDPREP (six of those hours to be completed during the summer prior to matriculation into the Biological Science program.)
4. An overall 3.0 grade point average ( $A = 4.0$ ) must be maintained with no course in which the grade is lower than a *C* counting toward the degree requirements.

#### Thesis Option

Admission requirements: 37 semester hours of undergraduate courses distributed among any four of the biological science areas (plant biology, microbiology, physiology and zoology); organic chemistry with laboratory; physics; statistics. Applicants deficient in these background areas may be admitted, but any deficiency must be successfully completed

before the third semester of the registration program.

**Advisement:** No later than the end of the first semester of registration on the program, the student must arrange with a faculty member in one of the four biological science departments to serve as the research adviser. Following selection and approval of the adviser, an advisory committee is to be recommended to the director of the Biological Sciences Program for approval by the dean of the Graduate School. This committee shall consist of at least three members, each from a different biological science department, with the research advisor serving as chair. A program of course work must be approved by the advisory committee and filed with the director no later than the eighth week of the second semester of registration in the program. Any deviation from the course work program during the student's tenure must be approved by the advisory committee and filed with the director. A research proposal for the thesis must be approved by the advisory committee and filed with the director no later than the end of the second semester of registration.

Graduation requirements include a total of 30 semester hours of 400- or 500-level courses with the following provisions:

1. A minimum of 21 semester hours of formal graded courses in the biological sciences is required with no less than six semester hours coming from each of four of the biological science departments.
2. A least 15 semester hours of the total required must be at the 500 level.
3. At least one semester of seminar in two of the four biological science departments must be attended for credit.
4. An overall 3.0 grade point average ( $A = 4.0$ ) must be maintained with no course in which the grade is less than a *C* counting toward the degree requirements.
5. A thesis embodying original research is required and may be counted for not less than three nor more than six semester hours of credit.
6. A final oral examination is required consisting of a public presentation of the thesis research and a closed session of inquiry by the student's research and advisory committee.

### Courses (BIOL)

**BIOL 409-3 Developmental Biology.** Basic principles and processes of embryonic development including contemporary research on molecular, cellular and genetic mechanisms of differentiation and morphogenesis; selected plants and invertebrate and vertebrate animals will be considered. Prerequisite: BIOL 305 with a grade of C or better.

**BIOL 500-3 Contemporary Biology for Teachers.** An introduction to fundamental biological concepts. Emphasis is placed on exploring plant and animal model systems using contemporary methodologies. Examples of biological processes will be covered from genomics to ecosystems. Prepares teachers to introduce biological principles and innovative approaches to understanding biological systems in the classroom. Prerequisite: SCI 210A & B or equivalent.

**BIOL 601-1 Continuing Enrollment.** For students who have not finished their degree programs and who are in the process of working on their dissertations, thesis, or research paper. The student must have completed a minimum of 24 hours of

dissertation research, or the minimum thesis, or research hours before being eligible to register for this course. Concurrent enrollment in any course is not permissible. Graded S/U. Prerequisite: minimum hours as stated above.