MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) MAJOR IN BIOLOGY (NON-THESIS OPTION)

Major Program
Graduate study in biology integrates classroom and field or laboratory experience to help meet the current and future scientific needs of society. The Biology department offers students opportunities to study in the field or in modern facilities with up-to-date instrumentation and resources, including a DNA-sequencing unit, an integrated microscopy facility, high-speed digital networks and computing centers, a GIS lab, greenhouses, wet labs and extensive plant, animal and paleobotanical collections.

Application Requirements
The items listed below are required for admission consideration for applicable semesters of entry during the current academic year. Submission instructions, additional details, and changes to admission requirements for semesters other than the current academic year can be found on The Graduate College’s website (http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu). International students should review the International Admission Documents webpage (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/admission-documents/international) for additional requirements.

- completed online application
- $55 nonrefundable application fee
  or
- $90 nonrefundable application fee for applications with international credentials
- baccalaureate degree in biology or a related field from a regionally accredited university
- official transcripts from each institution where course credit was granted
- minimum 3.0 GPA in the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses)
- official GRE (general test only) with competitive scores in the verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning sections
- resume/CV
- statement of purpose describing professional aspirations and rationale for pursuing graduate study in biology
- three letters of recommendation addressing the substance and quality of the student's preparation for graduate study

TOEFL or IELTS Scores
Non-native English speakers who do not qualify for an English proficiency waiver:

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and
  - minimum individual module scores of 6.0

The student may qualify for English-based conditional admission if the minimum scores below are met:

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 59 overall
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 5.5 overall and
  - minimum individual module scores of 5.5

Degree Requirements
The Master of Science (M.S.) degree with a major in Biology requires 45 semester credit hours.

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 5390</td>
<td>Problems in the Biological Sciences (at least one term of an independent study project)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select one of the following seminar options:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Option A - Take 3 hours from the following:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 5110</td>
<td>Seminar in Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 7102</td>
<td>Seminar in Aquatic Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 7120</td>
<td>Population Biology Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Option B - Take two seminars from Option A and:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 5295</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives
Choose 39 hours of advisor-approved electives
May choose 2 advisor-approved courses outside the department

Total Hours: 45-46

Non-thesis Students
Students pursuing a non-thesis degree are required to have a major professor by the end of their first long term of enrollment in the graduate program. The major professor will normally be a faculty member specializing in an area of particular interest to the student and is often the individual who supervises the required independent study project. Prior to the final term of enrollment the non-thesis student must, in consultation with the major professor, select a committee that will administer the final comprehensive examination.

Comprehensive Examination Requirements
All candidates for graduate degrees must pass one or more comprehensive examinations.

Master’s level courses in Biology: BIO

Courses Offered

Biology (BIO)

BIO 5100. Professional Development.
This course is seminar-based and covers topics related to teaching, research, and employment responsibilities. Completion of the course is required as a condition of employment for graduate assistants. This course does not earn graduate degree credit. Repeatable with different emphasis. Graded on a credit (CR), no-credit (F) basis.
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Graduate Assistantship|Exclude from Graduate GPA
Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships
BIO 5110. Seminar in Biology.
Interactive discussion of timely issues and problems, designed to expose students to the current literature in their fields of interest and its critical analysis. This course is repeatable for credit.
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Header
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5114. Collaborative Research.
This course allows master's level graduate students to initiate, conduct, and participate in research in collaboration with graduate faculty of the Department of Biology that is in addition to thesis research conducted under BIO 5399A or BIO 5399B. This course recognizes the collaborative nature of scientific investigation. See also BIO 5214 and BIO 5314.
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 1 Lab Contact Hour.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5166. Medical Microbiology Laboratory.
This graduate laboratory-based course will cover pathogenic bacteria emphasizing identification of selected groups of pathogens and the biological basis for virulence. Prerequisites: BIO 2400 and BIO 2450 both with grades of "C" or better.
1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5176. Microbial Biotechnology Laboratory.
This laboratory-based course will cover use of microbes for biotechnological applications and is designed to provide practical explorations into fields of biotechnology. Topics include laboratory techniques for recombinant protein purification, fermentation, identification of markers in genetically modified food and bio-remediation of pollutants. Corequisite: BIO 5376.
1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5199B. Thesis.
This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Cannot be taken unless a Thesis Proposal has been submitted. Students working toward the M.A. or M.S. with a thesis are expected to enroll in thesis each semester in which faculty supervision is received or laboratory facilities are utilized.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

BIO 5295. Fundamentals of Research.
Designed to acquaint the beginning graduate student with materials and methods of research in the biological sciences. It is recommended that a graduate student take this course the first semester in residence.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5299B. Thesis.
This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Cannot be taken unless a Thesis Proposal has been submitted. Students working toward the M.A. or M.S. with a thesis are expected to enroll in thesis each semester in which faculty supervision is received or laboratory facilities are utilized.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

BIO 5300. Neurobiology.
This course presents the biology of the nervous system with emphasis on the human nervous system. Topics presented in lecture include neuroanatomy, cellular neurobiology, neurophysiology, developmental neurobiology, and neuronal plasticity.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5301. Evolution.
Basic genetic principles applied to natural selection, adaptation, populations, and speciation. Consideration is given to the origin of life, nature of chromosomal variation, evolution of genetic systems, and certain other selected topics.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

Students will be introduced to the impact human recreational activities have on wildlife habitats and populations. Management practices to enhance human-wildlife encounters or to minimize detrimental effects on wildlife populations will be presented.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5305. Methods of Nature Study for Teachers.
This course provides a comprehensive survey of natural events. It includes laboratory and field work emphasizing observation, collection and discovery of relationships. It is creditable only for those seeking elementary or middle school certification and is required for those seeking grade 4-8 Science or Science/Mathematics teaching certification. This course must be taken the semester immediately prior to student teaching.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5311. Cancer Biology.
Cancer Biology provides a foundation for understanding the complex molecular, biochemical, and cellular processes associated with cancer development. Topics include the role of tumor suppressor genes, oncogenes, DNA repair, apoptosis, ECM, cell-cycle control, cell signaling pathways, immune function and cancer-causing viruses. Emerging diagnostics and/or therapeutics will also be discussed.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
BIO 5314. Collaborative Research.
This course allows master's level graduate students to initiate, conduct, and participate in research in collaboration with graduate faculty of the Department of Biology that is in addition to thesis research conducted under BIO 5399A or BIO 5399B. This course recognizes the collaborative nature of scientific investigation.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5319C. Ecotoxicology.
Topics to be covered include sources, types, and fates of toxicants, organism response to toxicants, toxicant effects at the population, community, and ecosystem levels, and monitoring and risk assessment. Examination of current literature will form the core of the course.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5319F. Watershed Management Frameworks and Applications.
Introduction to integrated watershed assessment and management tools for identifying programmatic water quality and quantity issues and their root causes and solutions, and their practical application. The scientific and socio-economic elements are considered within the context of planning and developing watershed protection plans and programs.
Prerequisite: Instructor approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5319G. Omics Approach to Microbiology.
The course will discuss contemporary approaches, techniques and bioinformatic tools used to study function and ecology in microbial communities. Topics covered will include microbiome, next-generation sequencing, metaproteomics, and their applications to clinical, agricultural, environmental and industrial needs.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5324. Natural History and Conservation of Large Mammals.
This course will introduce students to advanced details of natural history, research, and conservation of large mammals. Topics considered will include natural history, range and population status (historic and current), importance to and interaction with humans, research design and analysis, and the development of conservation and management plans.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

In this course, students will learn about Irish flora and fauna, ecosystems, conservation strategies in areas of high ecological concern, and public involvement. Emphasis will be placed on case studies and service-learning opportunities. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.
3 Credit Hours. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5328. Field Biology of Ireland.
In this course, students will use multiple techniques to explore biodiversity across multiple ecosystems in Ireland. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 12 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5329. Raptor Ecology.
This course will examine the evolution, taxonomy, ecology, behavior, anatomy, physiology, and conservation of birds of prey of the world with emphasis on diurnal raptors, including those from Texas. Field trips will include at least two overnight visits to significant migration and overwintering areas.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

Humans play a role in nearly every aspect of wildlife and fisheries conservation. This course will provide students with principles, concepts, and case studies to understand how the human experience (e.g., culture, politics, economics) influences conservation outcomes. Students will also have an opportunity to integrate human dimensions into local decision-making.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5335. Fisheries Management.
An introduction to principles and techniques in fisheries management. Includes the study of artificial reproduction, carrying capacity, productivity, sampling procedures, population estimates, mortality, survival growth rates, and commercial and sport fisheries. (Spring, even years).
3 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 4 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5350G. Medical Microbiology.
This lecture-based course will cover pathogenic bacteria and their ability to cause disease, emphasizing the biological basis for virulence, and research strategies for investigating infectious diseases. Students may take only one of BIO 5350G or BIO 5445 for credit. Prerequisite: BIO 2400 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5350I. Emerging Infectious Diseases.
Current topics in the emergence of viral and bacterial diseases in humans. This course will include new diseases, diseases previously seen and increasing in incidence, and diseases not previously seen in this country. This course will be of interest to students who are pursuing advanced degrees and courses in microbiology, biochemistry, and cell and molecular biology.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
BIO 5350J. Environmental Physiology of Animals.
This course is a study of how animals respond physiologically to changes in environmental temperature, moisture, salinity, partial pressure of gases, and toxins. Prerequisites: Instructor approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5350K. Genomics.
The course is a lecture course in modern genomics, including principles of genome function, the human genome, comparative genomics, genome sequencing, evolution and genomic change, databases and medicine, ethical, legal and social issues. The course also includes discussion of transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, directed evolution, protein design, and systems biology.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5350L. Graduate Bacterial Genetics.
This course will cover concepts and mechanisms involved in the genetics of Archaea and Bacteria. Graduate students will learn current strategies dealing with traditional molecular genetics including epigenetics and post-transcriptional regulation involving small non-coding RNA.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5350M. Wildlife Policy and Law in North America.
This course provides the student with a historical and cultural context within which wildlife policy and law (federal treaties, statutes, case law, and regulations) have developed in North America, particularly in the United States. Graduate students will research the development of Wildlife law in representative states as well.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5350O. Biological Oceanography.
Students will be introduced to the principles of oceanography and will understand anthropogenic impacts on the oceans. Topics to be investigated will include: ocean formation and destruction, sediments, ocean circulation, waves, tides, estuaries, life in the oceans, hydrothermal vents, coral reefs, fisheries, marine pollution, and climate change.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5350R. Microbial Biotechnology.
This course provides an overview of how microbes (e.g., bacteria, viruses and yeast) are manipulated to solve practical problems through biotechnology. This course is designed on topics of applied microbiology recommended by American society of Microbiology.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5350Q. Field Biology of Ireland.
In this course, students will use multiple techniques to explore biodiversity across multiple ecosystems in Ireland. Must be accepted into the Texas State in Ireland Study Abroad Program.
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5350U. Ecology of Rarity.
This course will examine the ecology of rarity and its ability to inform public awareness and environmental policy. This course will explore how we define rarity, persistence and viability. Is rarity more or less common than might be expected, and is there anything we can or should do about it?
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5350V. Diversity and Cultural Impact of Geoparks.
Students will explore biological differences in diversity across Geoparks in the United States and Ireland. Additionally, students will study the cultural impact that Geoparks have on the local community and national policy by focusing on differences between science communication strategies and community engagement practices conducted at the parks. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5351G. Omics Approach to Microbiology.
This course covers contemporary approaches, techniques and bioinformatic tools used to study function and ecology in microbial communities. Topics covered will include microbiome, next-generation sequencing, metaproteomics, and their applications to clinical, agricultural, environmental and industrial needs.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
BIO 5356. Plant Physiology.
Basic principles of plant physiology are studied in lecture and laboratory. Previous courses in biochemistry and genetics are strongly recommended.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

Current government regulations regarding environmental impact, content of environmental impact statements, how to proceed with an impact study, application of ecological principles to impact studies, and steps in the review process for environmental impact statements are considered. (Spring, odd years). Prerequisite: Instructor approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5366. Medical Microbiology.
This lecture-based course will cover pathogenic bacteria and their relationship to disease, emphasizing critical evaluation of research literature, disease transmission and the biological basis for virulence. Prerequisites: BIO 2400 and BIO 2450 both with grades of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5376. Medical Microbiology.
This course provides an overview of how microbes (e.g., bacteria, viruses and yeast) are manipulated to solve practical problems through biotechnology. This course design is based on topics of applied microbiology as recommended by American society of Microbiology.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5377. Genome Informatics.
The description and interpretation of earth phenomena considered from the standpoint of geology and oceanography. Includes field observations, methods of sampling and interpretation of data related to the physical environment and space technology. Requires independent scientific and science education research and presentation of findings in a professional context.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 4 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $25; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5399B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Cannot be taken unless a Thesis Proposal has been submitted. Students working toward the M.A. or M.S. with a thesis are expected to enroll in thesis each semester in which faculty supervision is received or laboratory facilities are utilized.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

BIO 5400. Plants Important for Wildlife.
This course explores plant and plant part (specifically gall, fruit, seed, and twig) identification, phylogenetics, co-evolution of plant defenses, economic and ecological impacts of plant uses by wildlife.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5402. Earth Science I.
A study of astronomy and meteorology through observation, description, and interpretation of earth phenomena. Includes field observations, methods of measurement and interpretation of data related to the physical environment and space technology. Requires independent scientific and science education research and presentation of findings in a professional context.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 4 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $25; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5408. Science Processes and Research.
Students will analyze scientific research design, design research, interpret data, and communicate results. Stress will be placed on broad-field structure and integration of major science concepts and research-based science pedagogy. This course must be taken the semester prior to student teaching and is required for those seeking 7-12 Life Science or Science teacher certification. This course may not count as one of the four upper-level Biology courses required of general Biology majors, or one of the three upper-level Biology courses required of Biology minors.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 4 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $25; Fee - Lab BIO
BIO 5410. Field Biology of Plants.
Ecological relationships and natural history of plants, including historical
geology, geography, soils, and vegetational regions of Central Texas.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

A phylogenetic survey of living and fossil vascular plants that focuses
on external morphology and reproductive biology. Topics include
phylogenetic reconstruction, the origin of vascular plants, seed
reproduction, and the origin of angiosperms. Emphasis is on broad-scale
evolutionary patterns and origin of major taxonomic groups.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5412. Plant Anatomy.
A descriptive and functional analysis of seed plants that focuses on
internal structure. Topics include recognition and characterization of
plant tissues, the structure of plant organs, and organ development.
Emphasis is on pattern of tissue organization common to all seed plants
and the functional basis for anatomical structure.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5413. Parasitology.
The biology and biological significance of the common parasites of man
and animals.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 4 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5415. Ichthyology.
An introduction to the morphology, taxonomy, natural history, and
evolution of fishes. Field trips will be made to collect specimens, and
laboratory periods will be devoted to morphological and systematic
analyses.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5418. Field Ornithology.
This course is designed to introduce and provide an advanced knowledge
of the application of various field, laboratory, and statistical methods
and techniques in the study of avian species. The course will include
topics related to survey methodology, sampling design, marking/banding,
measurement/sample extraction, and aging/sexing of avian species.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

Class covers ecological theories, concepts, and processes occurring
at the population, community, and ecosystem levels of organization
in running water. Lab includes sampling methods, description and
comparative studies, experiments, critical discussion of literature and
experience in writing manuscripts. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5420. Natural History of the Vertebrates.
Environmental relationships and natural history of vertebrates. Emphasis
is on evolution taxonomy, speciation, behavior, and morphology.
Laboratory will include field trips for the study and collection of
vertebrates in their natural habitats. Students will assemble a
representative collection of vertebrates.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5421. Ornithology.
Introduction to anatomy, behavior, ecology, and identification of the
birds of Texas. Laboratory will emphasize field studies of birds and their
habitat requirements.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5422. Mammalogy.
The taxonomy, distribution, ecology, behavior, and evolution of mammals
with particular emphasis on wild mammals of the Southwest. Laboratory
will emphasize anatomy, identification, preparation of specimens,
and field exercises in methods of population analysis. Students may
assemble representative mammal collection.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5423. Wildlife Management.
Application of ecological principles and natural history concepts to
the management of wildlife habitats and populations. Laboratory will
involve demonstrations and practice exercises with wildlife management
techniques and instrumentation, and field trips to observe wildlife
management projects.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO
BIO 5424D. Vertebrate Endocrinology.
This course teaches function and organization of the endocrine system. It describes the major endocrine glands, the synthesis and release of their hormone products, and the interaction with target tissues. Endocrine control of digestion, growth, reproduction, and homeostasis will be compared between mammals and other vertebrate groups.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5426. Immunology.
A study of the immune response, antigen/antibody reactions, major histocompatibility complex, and immunopathology.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 4 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5434. Herpetology.
A course treating the origin and evolution of amphibians and reptiles; their reproductive and physiological tactics; taxonomy/systematics; and population biology. Emphasis will be placed on North American species and those groups inhabiting Texas.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5435. Techniques in Wildlife Management.
The basic methodology of practical wildlife management. This involves techniques in monitoring and data collection related to population dynamics and habitat parameters of wildlife species as well as field research.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5436. Tropical Biology.
This course entails an analysis and evaluation of the governing principles of tropical ecosystems, including wildlife ecologies, geological processes, and environmental-cultural interactions. In the laboratories, students will compare ecological relationships that influence tropical biology, discuss peer-reviewed literature and examine tropical flora and fauna during field trips to regional sub-tropical areas.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5441. Cellular Physiology.
Advanced cellular biology, including membrane physiology, thermodynamics, energy transduction and distribution, and cellular movement in non-muscle and muscle cells. Laboratory includes discussion of current research and exercises in cellular physiology.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5442. Experimental Techniques.
Use of methods and instruments applicable to biological investigations, including colorimetry, UV-spectrophotometry, fluorescence, flame and atomic absorption spectrophotometry, paper, gas, gel filtration and ion exchange chromatography, radioactive counting, and electrophoresis.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5443. Fish Physiology.
This course examines the primary physiological functions in fish including how fish sense and interact with the environment, maintain their energetic metabolism (respiration, digestion and excretion), reproduce and maintain water balance. Students will learn about the diverse adaptations fish use to cope with environmental and physiological challenges.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5448. Bacterial Genetics.
This course will cover concepts and mechanisms involved in the genetics of Archaea and Bacteria. Graduate students will learn current strategies dealing with traditional molecular genetics including post-transcriptional regulation involving small non-coding RNA. In addition graduate students will also write a critical review on a research article from relevant topic.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5450. Physiological Ecology of Animals.
Course brings together the principle concepts of environmental physiology of animals. The biological problems associated with living in various ecological realms will be discussed, and the biochemical and physiological adaptations of animals to their diverse habitats will be studied.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5454. Plant Ecology.
Functional ecology of terrestrial plants, plant populations, and communities. Laboratory emphasizes quantitative and experimental approaches to plant ecology and the use of field and laboratory physiology equipment.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5465. General Entomology.
Principles of morphology, physiology, and taxonomy of insects. Laboratory time will be devoted to a taxonomic study of the common orders and families of insects.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO
BIO 5466. Phylogenetic Methods.
Reconstructing phylogenies is important in most fields of biology. Course emphasis is on practical data collection, management, and analysis. Laboratory exercises will introduce phylogenetic and DNA analysis software, and WWW resources. Students will learn how to address questions in their own research using phylogenetic methodologies.
4 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5470. Limnology.
Physical, chemical, and biological factors affecting productivity in lakes, ponds, and streams. Limnology sampling methods, chemical and biological analysis of samples, and hydrographic surveying are included in the laboratory.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5471. Reservoir Ecology.
Study of the physical, geological, chemical, and biological factors that influence and make up reservoir ecosystems.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5472. Animal Behavior.
This course presents all the major facets of the study of animal behavior, giving special attention to its evolution and ecological significance. We will discuss major conceptual models guiding past and present research in the field. Laboratories will emphasize experimental techniques and statistical analysis.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $30; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5480. Cytology and Micro-technique.
Study of cellular ultra-structure and electron micro technique. Lecture portion of course will cover cytology of all cell types and theoretical aspects of light microscopy and electron microscopy. Laboratory portion will train students to proficiency in microscopy.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

BIO 5481. Internship in Biological Laboratory Technologies.
The student will participate in the work of a selected biology unit (private, commercial, or governmental). A research paper reporting the internship experience conducted at the biological unit under the supervision of a faculty member will be required. This course may be credited toward a biology major with prior approval of the graduate advisor and department chair.
4 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 15 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

A course on theory of operation and practical use of the scanning electron microscope as applied to biological materials. The course includes aspects of specimen preparation, photomicroscopy, micrograph interpretation, and microscope maintenance procedures. The course will provide the student training necessary to independently do scanning electron microscopy.
4 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 6 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Fee: $20; Fee - Lab BIO

This course will cover basic principles of developmental biology in both plant and animal systems. The course will mainly address cell, molecular and genetic mechanisms underlying the development of model organisms, mainly focusing on Drosophila (animal) and Arabidopsis (plant).
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

BIO 5599B. Thesis.
This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Cannot be taken unless a Thesis Proposal has been submitted. Students working toward the M.A. or M.S. with a thesis are expected to enroll in thesis each semester in which faculty supervision is received or laboratory facilities are utilized.
5 Credit Hours. 5 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

BIO 5999B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Cannot be taken unless a Thesis Proposal has been submitted. Students working toward the M.A. or M.S. with a thesis are expected to enroll in thesis each semester in which faculty supervision is received or laboratory facilities are utilized.
9 Credit Hours. 9 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit