Department of Biological Sciences

110 Mills Godwin Building
Norfolk, Virginia 23529-0266
(757) 683-3595
https://www.odu.edu/biosci

Christopher Osgood, Chair
Holly Gaff, Ecological Sciences Ph.D. Graduate Program Director
Wayne Hynes, Biology Master’s Graduate Program Director

The Department of Biological Sciences provides a broad selection of course offerings. The degree program in biology allows for the selection of elective subjects most suited to the individual’s vocational interests. In addition, the Department of Biological Sciences partners with the Graduate School to offer an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences.

Master of Science—Biology

Wayne Hynes, Graduate Program Director

The Department of Biological Sciences provides a broad selection of course offerings. The degree program in biology allows for the selection of elective subjects most suited to the individual’s vocational interests.

The curriculum for the Master of Science program is developed around one’s interests such as:

- botany,
- ecology,
- immunology,
- infectious diseases,
- marine biology,
- microbiology,
- physiology,
- biomechanics,
- environmental pollution,
- marine benthic ecology,
- systematic biology, and
- zoology.

In addition, there are specially designed concentration areas in:

- Microbiology and Immunology
- One Health

Facilities and Equipment in the Department of Biological Sciences include:

- microscopy: electron, fluorescence and confocal,
- animal care facilities: terrestrial and aquatic,
- spectroscopy,
- cell culture,
- DNA sequencing: Sanger and Next-Generation,
- GIS (Geographic Information System),
- digital imaging,
- a greenhouse,
- herbarium,
- zoological museum, and
- field science wet laboratories.

In addition, excellent opportunities exist for research and instruction off-campus at field research sites including:

- Blackwater Ecological Preserve,
- Virginia Coast Reserve-Long Term Ecological Research Site,
- Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences Eastern Shore Marine Laboratory,
- and
- other regional agencies and facilities.

Admission Information

Students who wish to enter this program should apply to the Master of Science in biology program and indicate their proposed field of study in the Statement of Interest, a required component of the application. Applications for admission can be obtained via the Internet at http://www.odu.edu/admission/graduate or from:

Office of Graduate Admissions
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA 23529-0050
(757) 683-3685

Requirements for regular admission to the master’s program in biology are:

1. a bachelor’s degree in biology or a related field from an accredited college or university;
2. a grade point average of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale;
3. Satisfactory scores on the General portion of the Graduate Record Examination (Verbal+Quantitative >300) or at least 500 on the Medical College Admission Test
4. two letters of recommendation;
5. an essay describing the area of biology of interest for graduate study, professional goals and motivation for graduate study in biology; and
6. written acknowledgment from a Department of Biological Sciences faculty member agreeing to serve as the student’s major advisor, if the student is accepted.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required of all applicants whose native language is not English: minimum scores are 550 for the paper-based test, 213 for the computer-based or 79 on internet-based test.

Deadlines for application to the program are:

- February 1 for summer admission, early fall admission and consideration for a graduate teaching assistantship;
- June 1 for fall semester admission; and
- October 1 for spring semester admission.

Degree Requirements

Two degree options are available — thesis and non-thesis. A minimum of 31 semester hours of graduate credit is required; three-fifths of these credits must be at the 600-level or above and 20 credits must be Biology department coursework. Students must pass a course with a grade of C (2.0) or better for the course to count towards the 31 degree required hours. Research (BIOL 698) is required of all students. All students must deliver a scientific presentation in an appropriate public forum; for thesis students, the presentation should be at a scientific meeting. Coursework will include 5 core courses; the remaining credits are selected according to the interest of the student, with the guidance and approval of the student’s faculty advisory committee. A substantial research project and a defense of the written thesis (BIOL 699) are required of students selecting the thesis option. Thesis students will complete a thesis defense (final oral exam) covering the research and appropriate coursework. Non-thesis students will complete a comprehensive written and/or oral examination on the program of study.

Curriculum

Many pertinent graduate courses are offered for the Master of Science in Biology programs that can be applied toward the degree requirements. A program of study is developed by the student with approval of advisory committee and the Graduate Program Director.

A set of five core courses is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MS Biology - Core Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RCR Course</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 747/847 Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All students in the MS in Biology – Microbiology and Immunology concentration will complete at least 31 credits, consisting of the set of five core courses, two required concentration courses listed below, and at least 12 credits selected from the following:

### MS Biology - Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCR</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 747/847</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 757/857</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biometry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 523</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellular and Molecular Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 772</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modeling and Simulation in the Life Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 732</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS in the Life Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 698</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 698</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research in Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 503</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Microbiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 516</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Immunology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 525</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbial Pathogenesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 530</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious Disease Epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 537</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Health: People, Animals and the Environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 557</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Virology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 562</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbial Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 563</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Signaling in Host Pathogen Interactions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 565</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biotechnology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 570</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases that Changed our World</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 582</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human and Veterinary Parasitology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 640</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbial Toxins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 702</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Sciences Journal Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 705</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Microbiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 730</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Infectious Diseases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 745</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Immunology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 748</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional genomics and proteomics in animal models</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 771</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vector-Borne Diseases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Master of Science - Biology, Microbiology and Immunology Concentration **

The Microbiology and Immunology concentration is designed to enable the student to learn basic skills related to Microbiology and Immunology with the flexibility to develop a curriculum in their area of interest such as infectious diseases or immunology.

### Curriculum

All students in the MS in Biology – Microbiology and Immunology concentration will complete at least 31 credits, consisting of the set of five core courses and at least an additional 12 credits selected from the following:

** Master of Science - Biology, One Health Concentration **

The One Health concentration is for students in the MS program that have a specific interest in aspects of the interdisciplinary One Health paradigm, a strategy for expanding interdisciplinary collaborations and communications in aspects of health for humans, animals and the environment. The concentration will introduce students to the concepts of One Health and their application. Students will be admitted to the concentration after selection of their guidance committee and approval of their program of study.

### Curriculum

All students in the MS in Biology – One Health concentration will complete at least 31 credits, consisting of the set of five core courses, two required courses, and an additional 6 credits of coursework chosen from the concentration courses listed below.

** Master of Science - Biology, One Health Concentration **

The One Health concentration is for students in the MS program that have a specific interest in aspects of the interdisciplinary One Health paradigm, a strategy for expanding interdisciplinary collaborations and communications in aspects of health for humans, animals and the environment. The concentration will introduce students to the concepts of One Health and their application. Students will be admitted to the concentration after selection of their guidance committee and approval of their program of study.

### Curriculum

All students in the MS in Biology – One Health concentration will complete at least 31 credits, consisting of the set of five core courses, two required courses, and an additional 6 credits of coursework chosen from the concentration courses listed below.
A master's degree in statistics while pursuing a doctorate in ecological sciences. The program is enhanced by excellent on-campus resources that include a scanning electron microscopy lab, genetic sequencing facilities, herbarium, aquatics laboratory, water tunnel and flow quantification facility, GIS facilities, greenhouse, and digital imaging facilities. Field research sites have been established in:

- the Virginia Coastal Reserve,
- Blackwater Ecologic Preserve,
- Great Dismal Swamp,
- Atlantic Ocean,
- Chesapeake Bay, and
- other areas.

**Admission**

Application forms for admission to the Ph.D. program in ecological sciences are available from the Office of Admissions and online (http://www.odu.edu/admission/graduate). The following should be sent to the Admissions Office:

1. the completed application form;
2. official transcripts from all universities attended;
3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores;
4. test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score (from students whose native language is not English);
5. three letters of recommendation, including one from the applicant’s major advisor; and,
6. a statement of professional goals that includes specific research interests.

If an applicant is interested in requesting financial aid, an application for institutional graduate financial assistance should be completed during the application process (see Office of Admissions web page for form). The deadline for application to the program is February 1 for the subsequent fall semester. Students may be admitted during the spring and summer semesters as well, provided they obtain permission from the Graduate Program Director.

To qualify for admission, a student needs:

1. a satisfactory academic average (overall GPA score of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and overall GPA in the sciences of at least 3.0);
2. GRE scores near the 70th percentile on each of the examination sections (verbal, quantitative, and analytical) with a preferred combined quantitative and verbal score of more than 300;
3. a TOEFL score of at least 550 (paper-based test), 213 (computer-based test), or 79 (internet-based test) for applicants whose native language is not English;
4. satisfactory letters of recommendation; and
5. a statement of professional goals as stated above.

A master’s degree is desirable but not required. The applicant is expected to have a background in the sciences, with an appropriate undergraduate degree and substantial course work in biology, chemistry or geology.

Applicants are strongly advised to contact the ODU faculty member closest to their area of interest prior to submitting an application to determine whether that faculty member is accepting new graduate students. No student, regardless of qualifications, is admitted to the Ecological Sciences Program without the approval of a specific faculty advisor. Potential applicants therefore should initiate a dialogue, preferably by email, with an appropriate member of the program faculty. Applicants should consult the list of faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences, which includes a brief description of their research interests. Applicants may also find it desirable to visit the campus for an interview with a potential advisor and the Graduate Program Director.

It is important for potential applicants to realize that many considerations enter into the decision to accept a student into the program. In addition to the strength of an applicant’s credentials (GRE scores, transcripts, and letters of recommendation), the availability of space in the appropriate faculty advisor’s lab and availability of adequate financial aid may influence

---

**Doctor of Philosophy - Ecological Sciences**

Dr. Holly Gaff, Graduate Program Director

**Program Description**

The primary goal of the doctoral program in ecological sciences is to provide advanced training in ecological, evolutionary and integrative biology. The program has notable strengths in a broad range of biological sub-disciplines, including:

- ecosystem studies,
- experimental ecology,
- community ecology,
- behavioral ecology,
- marine biology,
- molecular genetics,
- conservation biology,
- systematics,
- modeling,
- evolutionary biology,
- biomechanics,
- parasitology, and
- functional morphology.

Program faculty conduct studies in a variety of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments on several continents, and their research focuses on a broad spectrum of taxa, including, but not limited to:

- vascular plants,
- polychaetes,
- mollusks,
- crustaceans,
- insects,
- arachnids,
- birds,
- fishes, and
- amphibians.

Many faculty combine active field research with parallel laboratory studies. Quantitative approaches are encouraged and the opportunity exists to obtain a master’s degree in statistics while pursuing a doctorate in ecological sciences.
Program Requirements

Program requirements are designed to provide a firm foundation in conceptual elements of ecological, evolutionary, and integrative biology, while moving students expeditiously toward their own research. In general, students must complete:

- 48 hours beyond the master’s degree, or
- in the absence of a master’s, 78 hours beyond the bachelor’s degree.

The student’s program of study should be broad and balanced. Coursework varies with each student, depending on background and goals. Enrollment in a weekly ecology seminar is required, on average, one semester each year. Professional experience (environmental management or teaching) is encouraged. A five-member advisory committee of faculty is selected to guide the student through his or her course of study and to provide initial approval of the dissertation research. This committee also administers the comprehensive written and oral candidacy examinations, which are taken after all required coursework is completed and the research skill requirement (proficiency in one foreign language, computer programming, or a quantitative skill approved by the advisory committee) is satisfied. The written exam must be passed before the oral exam may be taken. Once the candidacy exams are completed and a dissertation committee approves a written dissertation prospectus, the student advances to candidacy. At least three of the members of the original advisory committee, including the committee chair (student’s major advisor), will compose the dissertation committee. This committee approves a written dissertation prospectus and will supervise the research. At this time, the student’s attention turns almost exclusively to his or her own research. However, students continue to participate in seminar courses on a variety of topics, and an average of one seminar course per year of residency on campus is required. At the conclusion of their research, the student submits a dissertation to the committee and presents a public defense of this work.

Graduate Certificate in Conservation Leadership

Tatyana Lobova, Certificate Coordinator

In this interdisciplinary program, students will learn how to address the challenges for conservation posed by a changing climate and sea level rise. Refer to the Graduate School (http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/graduateschool) page of this catalog for details.

Graduate Certificate in Modeling & Simulation for Biological Sciences

Holly Gaff, Certificate Coordinator

The graduate certificate in Modeling & Simulation (M&S) for Biological Sciences is designed for those who wish to broaden their knowledge of modeling and simulation principles and techniques as applied to Biological Sciences. Courses cover important aspects of biological data, discovery, identification, collection, analysis (time-series and GIS), simulation, and visualization.

Admission

Admission to the M&S for Biological Sciences certificate program requires a bachelor's degree (or equivalent).

Curriculum

The certificate requires between 12 to 15 credit hours to complete, to include a basic modeling and simulation core course and then additional coursework in biological and ecological modeling. A 3.0 GPA for the four-course sequence is required for successful completion.

Modeling & Simulation Core Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSIM 601</td>
<td>Introduction to Modeling and Simulation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Biology Modeling & Simulation Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 707/807</td>
<td>Ecosystem Ecology</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 732/832</td>
<td>GIS in the Life Sciences</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 772/872</td>
<td>Modeling and Simulation in the Life Sciences</td>
<td>2-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 12-15

* Students can substitute M&S approved courses from other departments with the approval of the certificate coordinator.

BIOL 500. Vascular Plant Families. 5 Credits.

An evolutionary survey of vascular plant families and the principles and methodologies that define them; emphasis on recognition and skills of identification. A field intensive hands-on course. A research project including a written paper and presentation is required. Prerequisites: A botany course.

BIOL 501. Entomology. 4 Credits.

A comprehensive survey of the insects, including taxonomy, morphology, physiology, reproductive and developmental biology, and ecology. Research techniques in entomology will be learned through both field and laboratory work.

BIOL 502. Scientific Diving Methods for Marine Research. 4 Credits.

This lecture/field experience course will train students in the common techniques used by marine scientists who employ scuba for their research. It satisfies the requirements for an American Academy of Underwater Scientist certification and covers other topics such as: use of underwater research equipment and marine resource surveys. A multi-day scuba trip is required. Prerequisite: scuba diving certification.

BIOL 503. Medical Microbiology. 3 Credits.

This course integrates the disciplines of microbiology, immunology, and biochemistry with the pathophysiology of infections and the appropriate pharmacology in a problem-based learning setting. Students will learn the fundamental concepts and terminologies of infectious diseases. The material will be case studies in small group tutorials and emphasize independent learning. Prerequisites: Microbiology and Biochemistry courses, anatomy course recommended, or instructor approval.

BIOL 504. Conservation Biology. 5 Credits.

The application of fundamental biological principles to the preservation of biodiversity, including the role of ecological and evolutionary theory to the preservation of biotas on a regional and global basis. Lectures will cover modern approaches to conservation biology, including conservation ethics and management issues. Laboratories will include discussion of case studies, introduction to software applicable to conservation biology, presentations by regional conservation practitioners, and visits to relevant field sites.

BIOL 507. The Pharmacology and Neurobiology of How Recreational Drugs Work. 3 Credits.

This course in drug use and abuse is designed to distinguish between drug use and drug abuse as well as provide pharmacological knowledge of how recreational drugs work. Students will acquire knowledge regarding the abuse of prescription drugs, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, marijuana and inhalants. This information will be used to analyze pathophysiological conditions that can occur as a result of drug use and abuse. Prerequisite: Background in cell biology. Pre- or corequisite: BIOL 508 recommended.

BIOL 508. Introduction to Pharmacology. 4 Credits.

This is a general introductory course in pharmacology dealing with chemistry, general properties and pharmacological effects on various physiological systems, therapeutic usefulness and toxicities of drugs. The course is designed to prepare upper-level undergraduate and graduate students for more advanced courses in pharmacology.
This is an introductory course in the theory and practice of zymology (fermentation). Edible and potable products of fermentation (beer, wine, mead, yogurt, cheese) have been known since antiquity and play an important role in today's society. The science of fermentation touches on many biological disciplines, such as microbiology and biochemistry, and the study of yeasts has provided considerable foundation to the fields of cell biology and molecular biology. In this course, we will cover fundamentals of fermentation and its practical application to production of beer, one of the oldest beverages produced by humans. Prerequisite: BIOL 293.

A study of the physiological processes which occur in plants. A laboratory and greenhouse oriented course stressing plant nutrients, cell metabolism-respiration, photosynthesis, nitrogen metabolism, and plant hormones.

A lecture and laboratory course designed to introduce students to important ecological processes operating in coastal marine environments. The course covers synthetic topics as well as the ecology of specific marine habitats. The laboratory is designed to provide students with experience in marine research and the organisms and ecological conditions common in various marine habitats visited by the class. A field trip of several days over fall break is required. Prerequisites: BIOL 291 and BIOL 331 and ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C must be passed with a grade of "C" or higher; instructor approval required.

A description of common immunological problems seen in the clinic. Prerequisite: Coursework in cell biology and immunology.

A field-oriented course on the identification and ecology of aquatic and wetland plants with emphasis on plants used to delineate wetlands following federal guidelines. Activities include the use of identification databases, apps, and traditional floras, and monographs to develop identification skills using plants from the diversity of habitats in the region. A research project including a written paper and presentation is required. Prerequisites: A botany course.

The biology of marine and freshwater fishes including morphology, physiology, evolution, distribution, ecology, and reproduction.

A combined lecture and field study of birds with emphasis on identification, behavior, and field methods. Extensive field trips, including at least one weekend, are taken.

The molecular organization of eukaryotic cells is presented along with cell evolution, molecular genetics, the internal organization of the cell and the behavior of cells in multicellular organisms. Prerequisites: course background in cell biology and genetics or permission of the instructor.

An introduction to the basic mechanisms by which different animals function. How organisms acquire and use energy, regulate their internal environment, circulate and exchange gases and wastes, receive and conduct information about their environment, and move and use muscles will be some of the topics covered. Emphasis will be on how organisms make changes in these basic mechanisms to deal with different environmental conditions.

This course will examine how mutation leads to altered gene products and expression, subverted cell activity, cell immortalization, and tumor formation. Students will explore the differences between benign tumors and malignant tumors as well as the factors involved in malignancy. The course will conclude with the exploration of current cancer therapy. Prerequisites: Cell Biology and Genetics courses.

The structure and function of cells, tissues and organs at both the light microscopic and ultrastructural levels.

Examination of bacterium-host interactions with an emphasis on how bacteria cause disease, particularly the means by which the bacterium is able to circumvent host defense mechanisms. Prerequisites: microbiology course.

This highly interdisciplinary science of conserving marine biodiversity will be taught through a review of old and new literature. This will include its history, marine ecology related to conservation biology, threats to marine biodiversity, assessment of extinction risk, conservation challenges of marine habitats and regions, and methods for conserving marine biodiversity.

This lecture/lab course will focus on concepts related to the spread and control of infectious diseases. The lectures will focus on concepts while the labs will provide quantitative skills essential to the study of infectious diseases. Prerequisites: Undergraduate coursework in statistics and biology.

A course that examines the interdependence between human health, animal health and environmental health. The One Health approach to the threat of emerging infectious diseases includes understanding the interconnectedness of human and animal pathogens, epidemic zoonoses and corresponding environmental factors, insights into mechanisms of microbial evolution towards pathogenicity, new technologies and approaches towards disease surveillance, and political and bureaucratic strategies. Pre- or corequisite: A Microbiology course is recommended.

The study of trees and shrubs (dendrology), their identification, ecology, structure and anatomy, lore, and uses are emphasized in this field-oriented course. A research project including a written paper and presentation is required. Prerequisite: A grade of "C" of higher in a botany course.

The major objective of this hands-on course is to use basic laboratory techniques to prepare monoclonal antibodies to use for identification and characterization of mouse immune cells. Students will learn basic training in molecular and cellular biology techniques aiming at building basic knowledge in flow cytometry, from the experimental designs to data acquisition and analysis. The course will cover: instrumentation; sample preparation; data analysis; and applications in immunology. Prerequisites: BIOL 123N and BIOL 124N or equivalent course work.

Animal behavior with special attention to its evolution and ecological significance. Field and laboratory activities will emphasize observational and experimental techniques used to study behavior.

An intensive study abroad field course offered during the summer at a foreign marine laboratory where students will be engaged in lectures and field studies of coastal marine environments. Check with the Director of the Marine Biology Concentration Program for details. Prerequisite: BIOL 331.

The goal of this course is to introduce and evaluate both classical and emerging paradigms in community ecology. This will be achieved by examining those processes (biotic and abiotic) that structure ecological communities, and by exposing students to quantitative and theoretical aspects of these paradigms. Prerequisites: Ecology course.

The principles of fluid and solid mechanics will be applied to a variety of plant and animal systems to understand how organisms deal with the immediate physical world and its accompanying constraints. A diverse range of topics will be covered, including aerial flight in insects, wind resistance in trees, jet propulsion in squid, flow within blood vessels, forces on intertidal organisms, viscoelasticity in biological materials, and energy storage during terrestrial movement. Prerequisites: Cell biology course and physics course recommended.
BIOL 550. Principles of Plant Ecology. 4 Credits.
Course covers the general theoretical concepts in plant ecology with statistical methods. The structure, development, processes, and history of plant communities are studied. Laboratories involve extensive fieldwork. A weekend field trip is required.

BIOL 551. Bioinformatics and Genomics I. 4 Credits.
The application of computer science to biology has led to major breakthroughs in the ability to read and understand the code written in genomes. This course will give students the skills to participate in the computational revolution in biology. The course will give students hands-on experience in writing simple yet powerful computer programs in the Python programming language and making beautiful data visualizations in the R programming language. Students will also learn how to combine existing pieces of bioinformatics software for their own workflows. Prerequisite: background in introductory-level biology and permission of the instructor.

BIOL 552. Bioinformatics and Genomics II. 4 Credits.
The application of computer science to biology has led to major breakthroughs in the ability to read and understand the code written in genomes. This course will give students the skills to participate in the computational revolution in biology. The course will build on the knowledge of writing programs. Students will learn about some key techniques “under the hood” of software that have been critical to the genomics revolution. Topics will include: graph algorithms, evolutionary trees, probability models for DNA and protein sequences, and an introduction to deep learning in biology. Prerequisite: BIOL 551 or permission of the instructor.

BIOL 553. Molecular Ecology. 4 Credits.
This course will explore the biology of organisms by using molecular (nucleic acid and/or protein) techniques and data. It covers a wide variety of subdisciplines within Biology, including genetics, physiology, ecology, and evolution. This course will explore basic theory in population genetics, ecology, and evolution and cover DNA, RNA, and Protein techniques and their application to biological research.

BIOL 557. General Virology. 3 Credits.
A basic course covering the history of virology, viral taxonomy, genetics, and the molecular biology and host responses to the major mammalian virus groups. Examples of recent impacts of viruses on human health such as influenza pandemics will also be covered. Prerequisites: courses in cell biology and genetics.

BIOL 559. Frontiers in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. 1 Credit.
Review of the structure, synthesis and properties of key nano-materials and their impact on living systems. Prerequisite: graduate standing.

BIOL 561. Human Cadaver Dissection. 5 Credits.
Students will dissect a human cadaver fully and learn all of the major structures. The course will divided into three sections: back and limbs, TAP (thorax, abdomen and pelvis), and head and neck. Instructor demonstrations include brain removal and dissection. Prerequisite: BIOL 241 or BIOL 251, or its equivalent, must be passed with a grade of C (2.0) or higher.

BIOL 562. Microbial Genetics. 3 Credits.
This course emphasizes the fundamental concepts of microbial genetics including the study of gene structure, gene regulation, operons, DNA replication, RNA biology, protein synthesis, plasmid biology, mobile genetic elements, and recombinant DNA technology. Prerequisites: Courses in cell biology, genetics and general microbiology.

BIOL 563. Cell Signaling in Host Pathogen Interactions. 3 Credits.
This course will emphasize cell dynamics including host and pathogen induced cellular signaling, the regulation of actin cytoskeleton rearrangement, and the modulation of host transcription and translation by different pathogens. Prerequisites: A cell biology course.

BIOL 564. Biomedical Applications of Low Temperature Plasmas. 3 Credits.
This course is cross listed between ECE and Biology. It is intended for senior undergraduate students and first year graduate students. The course contents are multidisciplinary, combining materials from engineering and the biological sciences. The course covers an introduction to the fundamentals of non-equilibrium plasmas, low temperature plasma sources, and cell biology. This is followed by a detailed discussion of the interaction of low temperature plasma with biological cells, both prokaryotes and eukaryotes. Potential applications in medicine such as wound healing, blood coagulation, sterilization, and the killing of various types of cancer cells will be covered.

BIOL 565. Biotechnology. 3 Credits.
This course provides an overview of how microbes are manipulated to solve practical problems through biotechnology. Topics to be covered include basic concepts in microbial technology, industrial microbiology, microbes in drug development, food microbiology, microbial interactions, gut microbiota, and metagenomics.

BIOL 566. Introduction to Mitigation and Adaptation. 3 Credits.
Students will be introduced to the science underpinning mitigation of human-induced changes in the Earth system, including but not limited to climate change and sea level rise, and adaptation to the impacts of these changes. The course will cover the environmental hazards and the opportunities and limitations for conservation, mitigation and adaptation. Cross listed with OEAS 566.

BIOL 567. Sustainability Leadership. 3 Credits.
In this class, students will discover what makes a leader for sustainability. They will consider a range of global and local crises from a leadership point of view in the context of sustainability science, which addresses the development of communities in a rapidly changing social, economic, and environmental system-of-systems environment. The course will be based on taking a problem-motivated and solution-focused approach to the challenges considered. The course includes a service learning project focusing on a leadership experience in solving a real-world environmental problem. Prerequisite: BIOL 566 or OEAS 566.

BIOL 570. Diseases that Changed our World. 3 Credits.
Despite advancements in the development of antimicrobials and vaccines and in securing clean water and food supplies, modern civilizations are not immune to epidemic diseases. This course will provide insight into the role of different technologies in the struggle to attain disease control and eradication and explore the challenge of forecasting emerging plagues, describing the nature and evolution of diseases and conveying their significance in shaping Western culture and civilization, their impact, their consequences, their costs, and the lessons learned.

BIOL 571. Marine Vertebrate Ecology, Management & Conservation. 3 Credits.
Course will explore the biology, diversity and major life history patterns of a suite of marine megafauna, including sea turtles, marine mammals, seabirds and sharks. Students will determine the major drivers behind large-scale declines of many marine megafauna species and be challenged to understand and attempt to solve conservation and management issues. Prerequisite: A Marine Biology course.

BIOL 574. Mushrooms. 4 Credits.
The identification, classification ecology, culture, and uses of mushrooms and other fleshy fungi. A field oriented course.

BIOL 575. Neurobiology. 3 Credits.
This course will focus on understanding brain structure as well as the morphology and function of the central nervous system in general. Fundamental processes such as neuron morphogenesis, guidance, polarity, migration, and growth cone motility will be emphasized. The cellular and molecular basis of neurological disorders also will be discussed. Prerequisites: BIOL 250 or BIOL 293 must be passed with a grade of "C" or higher or permission of instructor.

BIOL 576. Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the immune system, tumor antigens, immunosuppressive cells and molecules, and cancer immunotherapy treatment approaches. Prerequisites: BIOL 123N, BIOL 124N, and BIOL 293 (Cell Biology), or equivalent undergraduate coursework or permission of the instructor.
BIOL 578. Microbial Ecology. 3 Credits.
Study of the interactions between microorganisms, particularly bacteria, and their environment. Emphasis is placed on nutrient cycling and the influence of microbes on global mineral dynamics. The effects of physical and chemical factors on distribution and activity of microbes in their environments and applications of these interactions are studied (biotechnology). Prerequisites: a general microbiology course.

BIOL 579. Microbial Ecology Laboratory. 1 Credit.
A laboratory for measurement of microbial numbers and activity in natural environments. Pre- or corequisite: BIOL 578.

BIOL 581. Forensic and Medical Entomology. 5 Credits.
This course provides a comprehensive survey of the insects used in legal investigations and medically important insects. Topics covered include the taxonomy, morphology, physiology, reproductive and developmental biology, and ecology of these insects along with the diseases they may vector. Research techniques in forensic and medical entomology will be learned through both field and laboratory activities.

BIOL 582. Human and Veterinary Parasitology. 3 Credits.
The course will emphasize the principles of parasitism, including biology, physiology, genetics, morphology, and phylogeny of the major parasitic groups with a specific focus on the significant parasites of humans and animals of veterinary importance. The general biology of parasites including their life cycles, diagnosis, and treatment will be included as well. Pre- or corequisite: A cell biology course.

BIOL 590. Advanced Human Physiology. 4 Credits.
All major physiological systems with emphasis on normal physiology. Some clinical applications made but not stressed.

BIOL 596. Topics in Biological Sciences. 1-4 Credits.
A structured specialty course for students at the senior level. Courses may include lecture and laboratory components. Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor.

BIOL 598. Independent Study in Biology. 1-3 Credits.
Supervised (non-lab/field) project selected to suit the needs of the individual student. Requires completion of formal scientific paper documented with appropriate primary technical literature (see GPD for details). Unstructured course. Prerequisites: permission of the GPD and permission of instructor.

BIOL 609. Special Readings in Biology. 3 Credits.
Reading and discussion course designed to explore a field of specific interest.

BIOL 640. Microbial Toxins. 3 Credits.
This course will focus on the mechanisms of action of microbial toxins, including those affecting the host’s nervous system, immune function, metabolism, protein synthesis, and homeostasis. The structure and function of representatives of several toxin types will be analyzed for their potential applications to biotechnology and medicine. Prerequisites: A general microbiology course required and a microbial pathogenesis course recommended.

BIOL 661. Topics in Biology. 1-3 Credits.
Supervised projects and practica selected to meet the specific objectives of the student.

BIOL 669. Internship in Biology. 3 Credits.
With approval of Advisory Committee.

BIOL 671. Molecular and Immunological Techniques. 4 Credits.
A lab-intensive course emphasizing current methods in molecular biology.

BIOL 695. Topics in Biology. 1-3 Credits.
A specially designed course concerning specific topics in the biological, environmental or allied health fields.

BIOL 698. Research in Biology. 1-3 Credits.

BIOL 699. Thesis. 1-3 Credits.
This course is selected with the recommendation of the faculty advisor.

BIOL 700. Cardiovascular Physiology. 4 Credits.
This physiology course will focus solely on cardiovascular physiology. Lectures will focus on basic and advance cardiovascular principles. The laboratory will focus on the use of current cardiovascular research.

BIOL 701. Practical Computing for Biology. 3 Credits.
This hands-on training course emphasizes the use of general computing tools to work more effectively in the biological sciences. It integrates a broad range of powerful and flexible tools that are applicable to ecologists, molecular biologists, physiologists, and anyone who has struggled analyzing large or complex data sets. Text file manipulation with regular expressions, basic shell scripting, programming in Python and R, interaction with remote devices, and basic graphical concepts will be reviewed.

BIOL 702. Biomedical Sciences Journal Club. 1 Credit.
Review and discussion of current papers in the areas of biomedical sciences. Student presentation, discussions and readings in this field required.

BIOL 705. Advanced Microbiology. 4 Credits.
Investigate microbiology from historical perspectives to modern molecular microbiology; ecological and biomedical components; bacteria and viruses. Laboratory will involve designing experiments conducting and evaluating results. Prerequisite: A microbiology course.

BIOL 707. Ecosystem Ecology. 5 Credits.
Ecoligical principles at ecosystem level of biological organization. Discussion of energy flow, nutrient cycling, ecosystem stability and ecosystem modeling. Laboratory involves field trips and methods of measuring ecosystem parameters. Prerequisites: a general ecology course.

BIOL 708. Ecological Sciences Seminar. 1 Credit.
A graduate seminar course in the ecological sciences. The format of the course depends on the faculty running the seminar, but most seminars involve student-led discussions on current research articles.

BIOL 710. Advanced Cell Biology. 3 Credits.
This course will cover selected current topics in cell biology that reflect recent advances in the field. Major topics include membranes and transport, signal transduction, cell adhesion and motility, cell cycle, apoptosis, and specialized cell functions. Students will read current research papers that describe the latest innovations in microscopic and molecular analysis of cellular function. This course is built on previous coursework in cell biology by reinforcing key fundamental concepts and performing a more in-depth examination of cellular mechanisms. Prerequisite: Course background in cell biology recommended.

BIOL 712. Biological Microscopy. 4 Credits.
Lectures will cover theory and concepts of specimen preparation and operation of various microscopes used in the biological sciences. The laboratory experience will include specimen preparation to viewing. Prerequisites: permission of the instructor.

BIOL 714. Biomedical Sciences Laboratory. 2 Credits.
Three laboratory rotations (6 credits) are required by the curriculum. Prerequisite: approval of the program director.

BIOL 715. Biomedical Sciences Laboratory. 2 Credits.

BIOL 716. Endocrinology. 5 Credits.
The biochemical integration of hormones and related agents on vertebrate physiology with emphasis on human endocrinology. Recent literature will be stressed.

BIOL 720. Systematic Ichthyology. 3 Credits.
A systematic survey of fishes emphasizing life history, anatomy, identification and classification. Prerequisites: BIOL 520.

BIOL 724. Neuromuscular Physiology. 3 Credits.
This course will provide a comprehensive discussion of the physiological and chemical properties of nerve and muscle cells.

BIOL 730. Emerging Infectious Diseases. 3 Credits.
Discussion on current studies into new and reemerging infectious diseases with an examination of the infectious agent and factors involved in disease emergence, prevention and elimination. Prerequisite: A microbiology course.

BIOL 731. Systematics and Speciation. 3 Credits.
Principles of systematic biology and discussion of speciation theory, with emphasis on generation, analysis, and interpretation of taxonomic data and application of these data to a better understanding of classification and speciation processes. Modern theories of evolutionary biology and phylogenetics will be stressed. A research paper is required.
BIOL 732. GIS in the Life Sciences. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to introduce students to geographic information systems through examples and applications in the life sciences.

BIOL 740. Advanced Vaccinology. 3 Credits.
This course will explore a broad range of concepts important to the field of vaccinology. Primary literature will be used to discuss vaccine development topics such as vaccine design and production, delivery methods, adjuvants, One Health, and zoonotic vaccines. HIV, TB, malaria, influenza, and parasitic vaccines will be included. Prerequisites: passing grade (2.0 or above) in a class (300-level or above) that covers microbiology or immunology, at the discretion of the instructor.

BIOL 745. Advanced Immunology. 3 Credits.
Current concepts in cellular and molecular immunology and host defense based on critical review of the primary literature.

BIOL 747. Responsible Conduct of Research. 2 Credits.
Required of all graduate students admitted to Biology programs. The course will introduce students to the responsible conduct of science and scientific research.

BIOL 748. Functional genomics and proteomics in animal models. 3 Credits.
The purpose of this course is to show how animal models of human diseases can be created and analyzed using genomic and proteomic technologies. The course will overview high throughput methods of generating disease models in mice and describe ongoing efforts in this field. Attempts to identify molecular mechanisms of the disease will be presented with particular emphasis on drug target discovery. Pre- or corequisite: An immunology course.

BIOL 749. Biogeography. 3 Credits.
Emphasis on historical biogeography, utilizing both dispersal and vicariance models for explanations of the geographic distribution of organisms. Ecological explanations are also considered. Useful techniques for biogeographic analyses, such as comparison of area cladograms are discussed at length.

BIOL 750. Marine Benthic Ecology. 4 Credits.
Application of ecological principles at the community level to marine benthic environments. Discussion of community structure, animal-sediment relationships, roles of benthic communities in marine ecosystems. Prerequisites: BIOL 515 or equivalent.

BIOL 751. Advanced Practices in Ethnobotany. 3 Credits.
The major objective of this course is modern methods used to study plants influencing human culture. Objectives include plant systematics and applications of DNA bar coding and fingerprinting; phytochemical techniques in drug discovery and food supplements; intellectual property rights; ecological methods for sustainable harvesting of natural products; the ethnobotanical interview and questionnaire development; methods for studying crop origins, history, and development; archeobotany; mining historical data; and importance of identification, vouching, efficacy, and conservation. This course provides a survey of interdisciplinary methodologies used in modern ethnobotanical research. A multi-day field trip is a required component.

BIOL 754. Phylogeny and Molecular Lecture and Laboratory. 5 Credits.
This course is intended to be an introduction to the processes and procedures used to reconstruct the evolutionary history of living organisms. Topics include project planning, sampling strategies, molecular techniques, and analytical and tree-building programs used to infer phylogeny. Lab provides computer experience in multiple phylogenetic software packages. Prerequisites: Instructor approval required.

BIOL 755. Molecular Genetics. 3 Credits.
Current molecular understanding of genetic processes will be reviewed. Applications to areas such as development and evolution will also be covered.

BIOL 756. Phylogeny and Molecular Systematics. 5 Credits.
This course is intended to be an introduction to the processes and procedures used to reconstruct the evolutionary history of living organisms. Topics include project planning, sampling strategies, molecular techniques, and analytical and tree-building programs used to infer phylogeny. Lab provides computer experience in multiple phylogenetic software packages.

BIOL 757. Biometry. 4 Credits.
A 1st course, or a refresher course, in statistical methods and experimental design for graduate students in biology and the natural sciences. The focus is on application and hypothesis testing with examples drawn from the field of biology. The course requires a significant amount of work outside of class on homework exercises and an independent project. Prerequisite: course background in statistics.

BIOL 758. Molecular Ecology. 4 Credits.
Scientist are increasingly using molecular methods to help them address fundamental questions in the population ecology and evolution of biological species. This class will introduce graduate students to the basic concepts and methods in molecular evolution, phylogenetics and methods into their research. Theory and concepts from lecture will be illustrated through reading and discussion of current scientific literature. Students will also directly apply the course material to a class project investigating population structure of marine species from the tropical Indo-Pacific, for which they will be trained in methods of DNA extraction, PCR and sequencing. They will present their results orally in a mini-symposium at the end of the course. Prerequisites: BIOL 671.

BIOL 759. Foundations and Principles in Ecology. 3 Credits.
A survey of the seminal ideas and perspectives in historical and contemporary ecology. The course is designed to provide a broad overview of the important theoretical and conceptual paradigms in ecology.

BIOL 770. Advanced Study in Biology. 3 Credits.
Under the guidance of members of the graduate faculty and with the approval of the program track coordinator, the student will carry out in-depth studies of selected topics relevant to the area of specialization. Extensive surveys and analyses of the literature. Written reviews, comprehensive and synoptic, and oral presentations are required of each student.

BIOL 771. Vector-Borne Diseases. 3 Credits.
Study of the role of insects, ticks and other invertebrates in the transmission of disease. Different areas of disease transmission will be examined, including physiological and biochemical aspects of microbial survival in the vector and transmission to vertebrate hosts, as well as ecological aspects.

BIOL 772. Modeling and Simulation in the Life Sciences. 4 Credits.
Course is designed to introduce students to modeling and simulation techniques using examples and applications in the life sciences.

BIOL 775. Grant Writing for the Life Sciences. 3 Credits.
Provides students with the skills to write competitive grant proposals to both private and federal funding sources (emphasis on NIH and NSF). Students will learn how to find the most appropriate funding mechanisms and how to position themselves to be competitive. Different grant writing formats will be illustrated through proposal development projects.

BIOL 779. Gross Anatomy. 6 Credits.
An intense study of all systems from a regional approach. Extensive dissections required in lab. Clinical applications utilized. Prerequisites: An anatomy course recommended.

BIOL 795. Special Topics in Biology. 1-4 Credits.
Study of special topics. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

BIOL 800. Cardiovascular Physiology. 4 Credits.
This physiology course will focus solely on cardiovascular physiology. Lectures will focus on basic and advance cardiovascular principles. The laboratory will focus on the use of current cardiovascular research.

Department of Biological Sciences 8
BIOL 801. Practical Computing for Biology. 3 Credits.
This hands-on training course emphasizes the use of general computing tools to work more effectively in the biological sciences. It integrates a broad range of powerful and flexible tools that are applicable to ecologists, molecular biologists, physiologists, and anyone who has struggled analyzing large or complex data sets. Text file manipulation with regular expressions, basic shell scripting, programming in Python and R, interaction with remote devices, and basic graphical concepts will be reviewed.

BIOL 802. Biomedical Sciences Journal Club. 1 Credit.
Review and discussion of current papers in the areas of biomedical sciences. Student presentation, discussions and readings in this field required.

BIOL 805. Advanced Microbiology. 4 Credits.
Investigate microbiology from historical perspectives to modern molecular microbiology; ecological and biomedical components; bacteria and viruses. Laboratory will involve designing experiments conducting and evaluating results. Prerequisite: A microbiology course.

BIOL 807. Ecosystem Ecology. 5 Credits.
Ecological principles at ecosystem level of biological organization. Discussion of energy flow, nutrient cycling, ecosystem stability and ecosystem modeling. Laboratory involves field trips and methods of measuring ecosystem parameters. Prerequisites: a general ecology course.

BIOL 808. Ecological Sciences Seminar. 1 Credit.
A graduate seminar course in the ecological sciences. The format of the course depends on the faculty running the seminar, but most seminars involve student-led discussions on current research articles.

BIOL 810. Advanced Cell Biology. 3 Credits.
This course will cover selected current topics in cell biology that reflect recent advances in the field. Major topics include membranes and transport, signal transduction, cell adhesion and motility, cell cycle, apoptosis, and specialized cell functions. Students will read current research papers that describe the latest innovations in microscopic and molecular analysis of cellular function. This course is built on previous coursework in cell biology by reinforcing key fundamental concepts and performing a more in-depth examination of cellular mechanisms. Prerequisite: Course background in cell biology is recommended.

BIOL 812. Biological Microscopy. 4 Credits.
Lectures will cover theory and concepts of specimen preparation and operation of various microscopes used in the biological sciences. The laboratory experience will include specimen preparation to viewing. Prerequisites: permission of the instructor.

BIOL 814. Biomedical Sciences Laboratory. 2 Credits.
Three laboratory rotations (6 credits) are required by the curriculum. Prerequisite: approval of the program director.

BIOL 816. Endocrinology. 5 Credits.
The biochemical integration of hormones and related agents on vertebrate physiology with emphasis on human endocrinology. Recent literature will be stressed.

BIOL 820. Systematic Ichthyology. 3 Credits.
A systematic survey of fishes emphasizing life history, anatomy, identification and classification. Prerequisites: BIOL 520.

BIOL 824. Neuromuscular Physiology. 3 Credits.
This course will provide a comprehensive discussion of the physiological and chemical properties of nerve and muscle cells.

BIOL 830. Emerging Infectious Diseases. 3 Credits.
Discussion on current studies into new and reemerging infectious diseases with an examination of the infectious agent and factors involved in disease emergence, prevention and elimination. Prerequisite: A microbiology course.

BIOL 831. Systematics and Speciation. 3 Credits.
Principles of systematic biology and discussion of speciation theory, with emphasis on generation, analysis, and interpretation of taxonomic data and application of these data to a better understanding of classification and speciation processes. Modern theories of evolutionary biology and phylogenetics will be stressed. A research paper is required.

BIOL 832. GIS in the Life Sciences. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to introduce students to geographic information systems through examples and applications in the life sciences.

BIOL 840. Advanced Vaccinology. 3 Credits.
This course will explore a broad range of concepts important to the field of vaccinology. Primary literature will be used to discuss vaccine development topics such as vaccine design and production, delivery methods, adjuvants, One Health, and zoonotic vaccines. HIV, TB, malaria, influenza, and parasite vaccines will be included. Prerequisite: passing grade (at least 2.0) in a class that covers microbiology or immunology (BIOL 316 or equivalent), at the discretion of the instructor.

BIOL 845. Advanced Immunology. 3 Credits.
Current concepts in cellular and molecular immunology and host defense based on critical review of the primary literature.

BIOL 847. Responsible Conduct of Research. 2 Credits.
Required of all graduate students admitted to Biology programs. The course will introduce students to the responsible conduct of science and scientific research.

BIOL 848. Functional genomics and proteomics in animal models. 3 Credits.
The purpose of this course is to show how animal models of human diseases can be created and analyzed using genomic and proteomic technologies. The course will overview high throughput methods of generating disease models in mice and describe ongoing efforts in this field. Attempts to identify molecular mechanisms of the disease will be presented with particular emphasis on drug target discovery. Pre- or corequisite: An immunology course.

BIOL 849. Biogeography. 3 Credits.
Emphasis on historical biogeography, utilizing both dispersal and vicariance models for explanations of the geographic distribution of organisms. Ecological explanations are also considered. Useful techniques for biogeographic analyses, such as comparison of area cladograms are discussed at length.

BIOL 850. Marine Benthic Ecology. 4 Credits.
Application of ecological principles at the community level to marine benthic environments. Discussion of community structure, animal-sediment relationships, roles of benthic communities in marine ecosystems. Prerequisites: BIOL 515 or equivalent.

BIOL 851. Advanced Practices in Ethnobotany. 3 Credits.
The major objective of this course is modern methods used to study plants influencing human culture. Objectives include plant systematics and applications of DNA bar coding and fingerprinting; phytochemical techniques in drug discovery and food supplements; intellectual property rights; ecological methods for sustainable harvesting of natural products; the ethnobotanical interview and questionnaire development; methods for studying crop origins, history, and development; archeobotany; mining historical data; and importance of identification, vouching, efficacy, and conservation. This course provides a survey of interdisciplinary methodologies used in modern ethnobotanical research. A multi-day field trip is a required component.

BIOL 854. Phylogeny and Molecular Lecture and Laboratory. 5 Credits.
This course is intended to be an introduction to the processes and procedures used to reconstruct the evolutionary history of living organisms. Topics include project planning, sampling strategies, molecular techniques, and analytical and tree-building programs used to infer phylogeny. Lab provides computer experience in multiple phylogenetic software packages. Prerequisite: Instructor approval required.

BIOL 855. Molecular Genetics. 3 Credits.
Current molecular understanding of genetic processes will be reviewed. Applications to areas such as development and evolution will also be covered.
BIOL 856. Phylogenetics and Molecular Systematics. 5 Credits.
This course is intended to be an introduction to the processes and procedures used to reconstruct the evolutionary history of living organisms. Topics include project planning, sampling strategies, molecular techniques, and analytical and tree-building programs used to infer phylogeny. Lab provides computer experience in multiple phylogenetic software packages.

BIOL 857. Biometry. 4 Credits.
A first course, or a refresher course, in statistical methods and experimental design for graduate students in biology and the natural sciences. The focus is on application and hypothesis testing with examples drawn from the field of biology. The course requires a significant amount of work outside of class on homework exercises and an independent project. Prerequisite: course background in statistics.

BIOL 858. Molecular Ecology. 4 Credits.
Scientists are increasingly using molecular methods to help them address fundamental questions in the population ecology and evolution of biological species. This class will introduce graduate students to the basic concepts and methods in molecular evolution, phylogenetics and methods into their research. Theory and concepts from lecture will be illustrated through reading and discussion of current scientific literature. Students will also directly apply the course material to a class project investigating population structure of marine species from the tropical Indo-Pacific, for which they will be trained in methods of DNA extraction, PCR and sequencing. They will present their results orally in a mini-symposium at the end of the course. Prerequisites: BIOL 671.

BIOL 859. Foundations and Principles in Ecology. 3 Credits.
A survey of the seminal ideas and perspectives in historical and contemporary ecology. The course is designed to provide a broad overview of the important theoretical and conceptual paradigms in ecology.

BIOL 861. Ecological Sciences Internship. 3-6 Credits.
Internship experience. Prerequisites: approval of advisory committee.

BIOL 871. Vector-Borne Diseases. 3 Credits.
Study of the role of insects, ticks and other invertebrates in the transmission of disease. Different areas of disease transmission will be examined, including physiological and biochemical aspects of microbial survival in the vector and transmission to vertebrate hosts, as well as ecological aspects.

BIOL 872. Modeling and Simulation in Life Sciences. 4 Credits.
Course is designed to introduce students to modeling and simulation techniques using examples and applications in the life sciences.

BIOL 875. Grant Writing for the Life Sciences. 3 Credits.
Provides students with the skills to write competitive grant proposals to both private and federal funding sources (emphasis on NIH and NSF). Students will learn how to find the most appropriate funding mechanisms and how to position themselves to be competitive. Different grant writing formats will be illustrated through proposal development projects.

BIOL 880. Advanced Study in Biology. 3 Credits.
Under the guidance of members of the graduate faculty and with the approval of the program track coordinator, the student will carry out in-depth studies of selected topics relevant to the area of specialization. Extensive surveys and analyses of the literature, Written reviews, comprehensive and synoptic, and oral presentations are required of each student.

BIOL 889. Gross Anatomy. 6 Credits.
An intense study of all systems from a regional approach. Extensive dissections required in lab. Clinical applications utilized. Prerequisites: Anatomy and Physiology course.

BIOL 895. Special Topics in Biology. 1-4 Credits.
Study of special topics. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

BIOL 898. Research in Biology. 1-6 Credits.

BIOL 899. Dissertation. 1-6 Credits.

BIOL 998. Master’s Graduate Credit. 1 Credit.
This course is a pass/fail course for master's students in their final semester. It may be taken to fulfill the registration requirement necessary for graduation. All master's students are required to be registered for at least one graduate credit hour every semester until their graduation.

BIOL 999. Doctoral Graduate Credit. 1 Credit.
This course is a pass/fail course doctoral students may take to maintain active status after successfully passing the candidacy examination. All doctoral students are required to be registered for at least one graduate credit hour every semester until their graduation.