

NATURAL SCIENCES (MS) - BIOLOGY TRACK

Program Overview

The M.S. in Natural Sciences program develops a broad-based scientific background in one of four tracks: Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Geosciences. The program also develops the research skills necessary to design and conduct original research.

The opportunity to take graduate courses in a specific track or combine graduate courses from each of the tracks allows the student to design a graduate course of study to suit his or her own specific interests and goals. The two-year curriculum allows students to focus on required courses and complete research in a timely manner. Graduate assistantship employment opportunities provide tuition and competitive stipends.

The Natural Sciences Program has:

Broadly trained faculty with diverse areas of expertise with regional, national and international research programs.

Well-equipped, modern laboratories as well as access to protected natural areas.

A wide variety of study-abroad courses that allow students to conduct research projects abroad.

The Master of Science in Natural Sciences Biology Track emphasizes development of a broadly-based scientific background as well as research skills necessary to design and conduct original research. The opportunity to take graduate courses in biology and focus in a specific sub-discipline of biology or combine graduate courses from geology and environmental sciences allows the student to design a graduate course of study to suit his or her own specific interests and goals.

In the first year, students take courses stressing communication skills necessary to present reports and research results, research design and data analyses as well as electives allowing specialization in particular areas of interest. Students select a three-member faculty advisory committee to guide their course options. One faculty member from the advisory committee will serve as the faculty mentor.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the program will be able to pursue a broad range of careers in the natural sciences. Common areas of employment include public agencies, non-profit organizations, government service, and private business. Students will also be prepared to move into a doctoral-level degree program.