

BIOLOGY, MASTER OF SCIENCE (056)

Program Coordinator

Carl W. Dick, carl.dick@wku.edu, (270) 745-2043

The Master of Science in Biology offers advanced instruction and training in the life sciences, emphasizing the development of critical thinking skills and hypothesis-testing. Both a thesis and non-thesis concentration are available. The traditional thesis concentration prepares students for a wide range of careers in teaching, research, and public service, and provides excellent preparation for Ph.D. study or other research-based pursuits in the biological sciences and related fields. The non-thesis concentration offers a distance-learning option and is designed primarily for career-oriented students who desire asynchronous, advanced training in biology but do not require extensive research experience.

Concentrations

- Thesis (BTHE)
- Non-thesis (BNTH)

Program Admission

In addition to Graduate Studies requirements, the Department of Biology requires the following:

- An undergraduate degree in Biology or a related discipline, or evidence of adequate preparation in the field of Biology;
- A thoughtful and reflective Statement of Purpose (ca. 1-2 pages) that describes the applicant's background, experience and preparation in the field, interest in the WKU program, and future or career interests. The statement must specify whether applicant is choosing the thesis or non-thesis (online) concentration, and thesis concentration applicants must identify a WKU biology graduate faculty member who has agreed to serve as advisor;
- A current Curriculum Vitae or Resume;
- Three letters of recommendation from professional references.

Graduate Studies Admission

Please refer to the admission section (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/admission/>) of this catalog for Graduate Studies admission requirements.

Program Requirements (30 hours)

The M.S. in Biology program offers thesis and non-thesis concentrations. Thesis students enroll in six hours of BIOL 599 and non-thesis students enroll in four hours of BIOL 516 as part of their degree program.

Thesis Concentration

| Code | Title | Hours |
|-------------------------|---|-------|
| Required Courses | | |
| BIOL 500 | Introduction to Graduate Studies and Research in Biology (Typically first semester) | 3 |
| BIOL 598 | Graduate Seminar (Typically final semester) | 2 |
| BIOL 599 | Thesis Research/Writing | 6 |
| Electives | | |

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|---|-----------|
| Any BIOL graduate courses except BIOL 516 | 19 |
| Total Hours | 30 |

Non-thesis Concentration

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|-----------|
| Required Courses | | |
| BIOL 500 | Introduction to Graduate Studies and Research in Biology (Taken prior to BIOL516) | 3 |
| BIOL 516 | Investigations/Biology | 4 |
| BIOL 598 | Graduate Seminar | 2 |
| Electives | | |
| Any BIOL graduate courses except BIOL 599 | | 21 |
| Total Hours | | 30 |