

### Five Year Program: Biology B.S./Biology M.S.

Exceptionally ~~qualified and motivated~~ ~~well-motivated~~ students may earn both BS and MS degrees in Biology in five years. The student fulfills the requirements for a BS degree in four years and for an MS degree the following year. A minimum of 160 credit hours are required to complete both degrees. The MS degree requires the completion of a thesis based on the student's own research.

Students may apply for the BS/MS program at as early as the end of their 4th semester and no later than the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> semester. Admission is contingent on their having a GPA of at least 3.0, ~~and~~ on the acceptability of their proposed course of study, and on the willingness of a Biology faculty member to be their graduate advisor. ~~Students with upper division standing may also apply, with the same requirements for admission.~~ Students in the five-year program must apply for graduate standing, normally in their 6<sup>th</sup> semester. Once admitted to the graduate program, the student spends his or her 8th semester as a dually registered student. During their senior year, the student must select a graduate advisory committee and formalize his or her graduate research topic. Once admitted to the graduate program, a student may apply for financial support via research assistant or teaching assistant positions. Students are expected to make substantial progress on their graduate research project during their 4<sup>th</sup> year. Student progress will be evaluated by the Biology Department at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year; students making significant progress may continue in the program; others may be considered for the more standard Biology M.S. program (see above), or they may be dropped from the Biology M.S. Program.

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