

PLANT BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, AND EVOLUTION

Graduate Programs

Programs of research and study leading to the degrees of Master of Science in Plant Biology and Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Biology.

Prerequisites

Applicants for admission must have received a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college and should have had 40 semester hours (or equivalent) in upper-division courses in the biological and physical sciences. A grade-point average of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) or above is required for unconditional admission.

Prerequisites for graduate degrees include successful completion of courses in the two broad areas of:

1. ecology and evolution, and
2. cell and molecular biology.

Students with an undergraduate major in biology or plant science will have completed a substantial portion of these courses; those with a less closely related major may be required to take some background courses.

Final authority for each student's plan of study resides with the student's advisory committee.

Degree Requirements

Demonstrated research competence through submission and acceptance of a thesis or dissertation is required for all plant biology graduate degrees. A minimum of one semester teaching experience is required of all MS and PhD candidates. This requirement may also be satisfied by enrollment in a college teaching practicum course (GRAD 5990 Special Problems in Graduate Education).

All graduate students are expected to attend and participate in all departmental seminars.

The Master of Science Degree in Plant Biology

Plans of study must include 30 graduate credit hours (as indicated in the Graduate Catalog). Exactly six credit hours of thesis (PBIO 5000) and two credit hours of seminar (PBIO 5850). At least 24 semester credit hours numbered 5000 or above are required. A minimum of three graduate courses must be taken.

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Plant Biology

The Department of Plant Biology, Ecology, and Evolution offers a PhD in Plant Biology. To receive the PhD in Plant Biology, students must enroll in a minimum of 70 or a total of 90 credit hours beyond the BS or 60 credit hours beyond the MS. No fewer than 36 or more than 60 hours of PBIO 6000-level are allowed in the plan of study. Two hours of seminar (PBIO 5850) must also be included in the plan of study. After a PhD candidate has completed most of the coursework, qualifying examinations are scheduled that cover major areas of the student's plan of study and relevant subdisciplines of plant science.