The 30 credit hour M.S. in Biology prepares students for careers in the biological sciences, and it provides a strong foundation for further academic training, such as medical school or a doctoral program. An advisory committee works closely with each student to tailor a specific curriculum to meet that student’s needs and interests. Students typically complete work for the master’s degree in 2-3 years.

Students in the biology master’s program have research and/or coursework opportunities that reflect the diverse interests of faculty members within the Department. Please see the description of research of Biology faculty members and description of graduate courses in Biology.

The capstone experience provides graduates with specific knowledge and skills to be competitive in the life-sciences workplace. The capstone experience is a thesis or comprehensive written examination. Students will choose a capstone experience (thesis or exam) before matriculation into the program.

For information regarding deadlines and requirements for admission, please see the Guide to Graduate Admissions.

In addition to the application materials required by The Graduate School, applicants must submit a personal statement explaining how the master’s degree at UNC Greensboro will help them achieve their career ambitions. Qualified applicants will have a strong undergraduate background in biology and science.

**Degree Program Requirements**

**Required:** 30 credit hours

**Biology Electives (24-30 credits)**

Students writing a thesis as a capstone experience must have at least 15 credits (including 6 credits of BIO 699 Thesis) in 600-749 level courses.

Students taking a comprehensive examination as a capstone experience must have at least 15 credits in 600-749 level courses and cannot enroll in BIO 695 Biological Research, BIO 699 Thesis, BIO 801 Thesis Extension or BIO 803 Research Extension.

Students will select 24-30 credits from graduate level biology courses; up to 8 of these credits can be taken at the graduate level in other departments with the prior approval of the Director of Graduate Study.

Prior to the end of the first semester of enrollment, each student is expected to identify a Master of Science Advisory Committee composed of an advisor and two other faculty members; the Director of Graduate Study must approve the composition of the committee.