

Categories of Admission:

Admitted to the University and to the Dept. of Biological Sciences

A). Thesis

Thesis students are students who have been accepted for admission by both the university and the Department of Biological Sciences. Thesis students take a minimum of 30 hours of coursework, write a thesis, and are financially supported by the university, department, or research advisor.

B). Non-thesis

Non-thesis students are students who have been accepted for admission by both the university and the Department of Biological Sciences. Non-thesis students take a minimum of 36 hours of coursework, conduct a semester-long research project, and are typically not financially supported by the university, department, or research advisor.

C). Conditional thesis or non-thesis

Students who do not meet the requirements for regular admission may be granted Conditional admission upon approval of the Graduate Faculty and the Graduate Admissions Office. Conditional students must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average during each term of enrollment or be terminated from the program. Other requirements may also be necessary, such as a GRE score over 1000 (Quantitative and Verbal) or correction of course deficiencies. Conditional students may apply for regular admission at the end of each semester of enrollment. Not more than 12 semester hours earned during conditional status (and/or Non-Degree status) may be used in meeting degree requirements.

Admitted students who have obvious deficiencies in basic biology subject areas may be required to take specific undergraduate courses without credit in order to correct those deficiencies. These deficiencies will be identified by inspection of the student's undergraduate transcripts. The student should meet either with the Graduate Coordinator or his/her major professor before registering for classes during their first semester of enrollment. Courses taken to correct deficiencies may not be audited, but may be taken on a pass-fail basis.

Admitted to the University, but not to the Dept. of Biological Sciences

D). Non-degree

Non-degree students are students who have been accepted for admission by the university, but have not been accepted by the Department of Biological Sciences. As the name implies, non-degree students will not receive a degree until officially accepted for admission by the department and university. Twelve hours of courses taken as a non-degree student can be transferred to the thesis or non-thesis program should the student chose to apply for admission to these programs.