

BIOLOGY

Undergraduate Program Information

A student may earn the Bachelor of Arts in biology or the Bachelor of Science in biology, genetics, microbiology, or conservation ecology through major studies in the Department of Biology. The Bachelor of Science in biology or microbiology is recommended for premedical and pre dental students, for those preparing to teach biology and other sciences at the secondary and college levels, for those interested in the numerous fields of biological research and applied biology, and for those planning on obtaining an advanced degree in biology.

Freshmen should begin taking required biology and chemistry courses in their first year. Degree plans for specific areas of interest can be obtained from the Biology Success Center (<https://bio.nmsu.edu/success2.html>) in Foster Hall room 204. More information on the Department of Biology is available on our web site (<http://bio.nmsu.edu>).

A student must earn a grade of C- or better to receive credit for any nondepartmental or departmental requirement for any major or minor offered by the Department of Biology.

Students who wish to explore a minor or supplementary course work in a specific discipline to enhance their academic experience are encouraged to speak with an advisor. The Biology Department offers minors in biology, microbiology, human biology, conservation ecology, or genetics and biotechnology. A student may not earn a major and a minor in the same discipline.

A student must fulfill a second language requirement to receive a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in the Biology and Microbiology majors. ***This requirement does not apply to the Conservation Ecology major, offered jointly with the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology, or the Genetics and Biotechnology major, offered jointly with the Department of Plant and Environmental Science.*** To meet the second language requirement, the student must do one of the following:

- Complete two semesters of second language courses numbered 1110 and 1120 with a grade of C- or better. Spanish speakers should complete SPAN 1210 Elementary Spanish for Heritage Learners I, SPAN 1220 Spanish for Heritage Learners II or SPAN 2210 Spanish for Heritage Learners III with a C- or better to fulfill the requirement.
- Challenge the 1120 level of French, Chinese, German, Japanese, or Spanish; or the 1130 level for the Spanish-for Heritage Learners student or the 1130 level for Portuguese.
- Obtain college certification of completion of two years of a second language at the high school level with a grade of C- or higher in the second-year level. (i.e. equivalent to FREN 2120G French IV, GRMN 2120 German IV, SPAN 2120 Spanish IV, etc.)
- Complete two semesters of American Sign Language, courses SIGN 1110 American Sign Language I and SIGN 1120 American Sign Language II, with a grade of C- or better.
- Pass a three-credit, upper-division course (numbered 300 or above) taught in a second language by the department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Obtain certification of a working knowledge of a Native American language from the American Indian program director.
- Obtain certification of a working knowledge of a second language if such language is not taught at NMSU from the head of the Department of Languages and Linguistics.

- In the case of a foreign student who is required to take the TOEFL exam admission, the dean will automatically waive the second language requirement.

Graduate Program Information

The Department of Biology offers research and coursework that cover the natural world whether it is at the molecular, organismic, or ecosystem level. Our goal is to prepare students for careers in diverse areas such as ecology, microbiology, evolution, botany, health science, and biology education through formal coursework, research experiences, interactive seminars, and professional development activities. Biology graduate students conduct their own research in a productive environment using state-of-the-art facilities. The Biology Department offers the following degree emphasis:

- Thesis Masters research program in Biology (M.S.)
- Non-thesis Masters program in Biology (M.S.)
- Non-thesis Masters program in Biology (Biotechnology emphasis) (M.S.)
- Doctorate research program in Biology (Ph.D.)

For research toward the Master of Science or the Doctorate of Philosophy, students can choose among the Department's three areas of emphasis:

1. Behavioral, Ecological, and Evolutionary Biology
2. Cell and Organismal Biology
3. Microbiology

There are two formal course requirements for all Biology Graduate students, with the exception of students in the accelerated non-thesis MS Biotechnology option. These core courses are

Prefix	Title	Credits
BIOL 510	Current Topics in Biology	3
BIOL 540	Science and Ethics	1-3

All graduate students develop their curriculum plan in consultation with their faculty advisor and graduate committee. Graduate students may also take a minor in other graduate departments and programs. Sample course sequences within the Department's three different emphases are described in the Biology Graduate Handbook available for download from the Graduate Student section of the Biology website (<https://bio.nmsu.edu/students/grads.html>).

All prospective applicants must submit all required materials specified in the Department Graduate Application Packet available in the Graduate Student section of the Biology website (<https://bio.nmsu.edu/students/grads.html>).