ANIMAL BIOLOGY

www.life.illinois.edu/animalbiology (http://www.life.illinois.edu/animalbiology)
Head of the Department: Andrew Suarez
515 Morrill Hall
505 South Goodwin Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-7801
E-mail: ab@life.illinois.edu

Major: Biology
Degrees Offered: M.S., Ph.D.
Graduate Concentration: Ecology, Ethology & Evolution (in all degrees)

Medical Scholars Program: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Biology-
Ecology, Ethology & Evolution and Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) through the
Medical Scholars Program (https://www.med.illinois.edu/mdphd)

Graduate Degree Programs
The Department of Animal Biology administers graduate degree
programs as concentrations in biology. Areas of training include
physiological, population, community, and evolutionary ecology;
population, molecular and quantitative genetics; evolutionary biology,
behavioral ecology and evolution, physiology, evolution and development,
functional anatomy, systematics, and conservation biology.

Admission
Acceptance for graduate study in animal biology is based on the
applicant’s research potential and academic achievement. An
undergraduate degree in the life sciences is the usual preparation, but
students majoring in mathematics, computer science, or the physical
and social sciences are also considered. Courses required for admission
are inorganic and organic chemistry, a year of physics, and mathematics
through calculus. Students lacking one or more of these courses may
be admitted with the provision that such deficiencies be completed
in addition to the normal graduate course load. A grade point average
of at least 3.0 (A = 4.0) for the last two years of undergraduate work
in a four-year undergraduate degree program or the last three years
of a five-year undergraduate program and for any graduate study is
mandatory, and good scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
are necessary. Considerable emphasis is placed on a student’s interest
and ability in research as demonstrated by previous work and letters of
recommendation. Applications are considered for fall admission only.
The deadline for application materials is January 1. A minimum paper-
based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 570 (230
on the computer-based version, 88 on the internet-based version) is
preferred for international applicants.

Medical Scholars Program
The Medical Scholars Program permits highly qualified students to
integrate the study of medicine with study for a graduate degree in
a second discipline, including Biology-Ecology, Ethology & Evolution.
Students may apply to the Medical Scholars Program prior to beginning
graduate school or while in the graduate program. Applicants to the
Medical Scholars Program must meet the admissions standards for
and be accepted into both the doctoral graduate program and the
College of Medicine. Students in the dual degree program must meet
the specific requirements for both the medical and graduate degrees. On
average, students take eight years to complete both degrees. Further
information on this program is available by contacting the Medical
Scholars Program, 125 Medical Sciences Building, (217) 333-8146 or at
www.med.illinois.edu/msp (http://www.med.illinois.edu/msp).

Financial Aid
Financial aid is available in the form of fellowships and teaching and
research assistantships for qualified students.

Master of Science in Biology with
Concentration in Ecology, Ethology &
Evolution

Thesis Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research (0 min applied toward degree)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Requirements

- A concentration is required
- Masters Thesis Deposit Required: Yes
- Minimum 500-level Hours Required: 12
- Overall:
  - Minimum GPA: 3.0

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

Non-Thesis Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research (0 min applied toward degree)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Requirements

- A concentration is required
- Minimum 500-level Hours Required: 12
- Overall:
  - Minimum GPA: 3.0

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

Doctor of Philosophy in Biology with
Concentration in Ecology, Ethology &
Evolution

Candidates for the Ph.D. degree must demonstrate excellence by
examination and, in consultation with an adviser and doctoral committee,
plan and carry out original thesis research with distinction. A preliminary
examination evaluating the ability of students to integrate subject
matter related to their fields is given during the third year. Additional
requirements may be prescribed by the adviser and doctoral committee.
A final examination, in which the student defends the thesis, and a
presentation of the thesis at the departmental seminar complete the
program.

Courses in statistics are required

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research (0 min applied toward degree)</td>
<td>0 to 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Requirements

A concentration is required. Experience in Teaching is required as part of the academic work of all Ph.D. candidates in this program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Requirement details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masters Degree Required for Admission to Ph.D.</td>
<td>No, but Masters level requirements must be met (additional 32 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying Exam Required</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Deposit Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For additional details and requirements refer to the department and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).