ENTOMOLOGY, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Entomology

The Department of Entomology offers graduate programs leading to the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. The program is designed to accommodate incoming students with a wide range of entomological expertise. The goal of the program is to provide students with a strong background in basic biology as it relates to insects and to equip them with the specialized intellectual and technical skills to pursue a career in research, teaching, and service in entomology and related biological disciplines.

Major areas of specialization within the department include systematics, evolutionary biology, molecular genetics, genomics, chemical ecology, disease ecology, invasion biology, toxicology, pollinator health, social insect biology, insect-microbe interactions, conservation biology, and integrated pest management.

Admission
The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test scores are not required by our Department but can be submitted if they will support your application. A minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 550 (paper-based test), 213 (computer-based test), or 79 (internet-based test), or an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 6.5, is required. Previous training in entomology is unnecessary. It is recommended that students who intend to study for advanced degrees in entomology gain a thorough grounding in the physical and biological sciences, mathematics, and the liberal arts. Spring admission is possible for special circumstances.

Graduate Teaching Experience
Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program and serving as a teaching assistant for at least two semesters is required.

Financial Aid
Graduate student awards are available, including teaching and research assistantships. In addition, fellowships, and traineeships are offered by the Graduate College and the School of Integrative Biology. A single application to the department is sufficient for consideration for all awards currently available.

A candidate for the Ph.D. degree should be conversant with entomological aspects of ecology, genetics, systematics, physiology, and integrated pest management. The candidate must demonstrate professional competence in a specialized area by presenting an acceptable thesis based on original research designed in consultation with a faculty adviser and approved by a graduate faculty thesis committee.

For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Graduate Handbook (http://www.life.illinois.edu/entomology/handbook.html) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/).
The grade point average required for degree certification is 3.0 (A = 4.0).

Minimum GPA: 3.0

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1. Synthesize and apply core knowledge related to the field of Entomology, particularly from the areas covered in the core courses and the advanced topic seminars.
2. Design and implement independent research, with the overarching goal to obtain mastery of relevant approaches for their area of research.
3. Apply rigorous statistical/analytical methods that typify their area of study.
4. Demonstrate effective communication skills
   a. Presentations
   b. Publications
5. Obtain teaching experience
6. Learn grant and fellowship application writing
7. Acquire other professional skills
   a. Data management
   b. Citation management
   c. Public Outreach/Science Communication
   d. Research and Professional Ethics

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Graduate Degree Programs in Entomology

• Entomology, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/entomology-ms/)
  • concentration: Computational Science & Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/)
• Entomology, PhD (p. 1)
  • concentration: Computational Science & Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/)

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Department of Entomology
Chair of Department: May R. Berenbaum
Co-Directors of Graduate Studies: Alexandra Harmon-Threatt and Adam Dolezal
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Entomology Department faculty (https://sib.illinois.edu/departments/entomology/directory/faculty/)
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College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences website (https://las.illinois.edu/)

Admissions
Entomology Department Admissions & Requirements (https://sib.illinois.edu/departments/entomology/graduate-admissions-entomology/)

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 01/2024