

Biological Sciences Ph.D.

Program Requirements

Catalog Department Overview # (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/academic-departments/biology-wildlife/>)

Minimum Requirements for Biological Sciences Ph.D.: 18 thesis credits

Optional Concentration: Wildlife Biology and Conservation

	Credits
General University Requirements	
Complete the graduate general university requirements. (https://catalog.uaf.edu/phd/#gurphdtext)	
Ph.D. Degree Requirements	
Complete the Ph.D. degree requirements. (https://catalog.uaf.edu/phd/#phdrequirements)	18
As part of the Ph.D. requirements, complete the following:	
BIOL F699 Thesis (18 credits) ¹	
Biological Sciences Program Requirements	
Complete and pass a written and oral comprehensive examination administered by the graduate advisory committee	
Complete and successfully defend the Ph.D. dissertation	
If entering the program without first completing a master's degree in biology or a related discipline, complete coursework at least equivalent to that required for the Biological Sciences M.S. degree	
Total Credits	18

¹ Note that in practice, most Ph.D. students also take coursework credits and more thesis credits than the minimum required. Any specific course requirements will be determined by the individual student's graduate advisory committee.

Admission Requirements

Complete the following general university admission requirements for graduate programs (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/getting-started/admission/#graduatedegree>).

1. Submit an application for admission
2. Submit official transcripts
3. Official test results: GRE scores are not required for this program, but may be considered if submitted
4. Submit resume/curriculum vitae
5. Submit statement of academic goals
6. Submit 3 letters of recommendation

International Students: Please consult UAF's most recent application requirements regarding English language proficiency (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/getting-started/admission/#english>).

Additional program admission requirements and information:

- Unofficial transcripts may be suitable for initial review of the application. Official transcripts must follow prior to matriculation
- The statement of goals should be specific, informative, focused and concise. The statement should address the following:

- Career aspirations
- Research interests
- Research experience and relevant training
- Interest, experience, and/or plans to serve society through your career
- Relevance of UAF Biology and Wildlife in achieving your future goals, including the names of faculty members you have contacted regarding graduate training
- Letters of reference should be from individuals who can address your potential to succeed in graduate school. Ideally, letters of reference should come from university faculty, research staff, or professionals familiar with your academic and research achievements and also with the expectations of graduate school. References are asked to address writing ability, critical thinking skills, quantitative skills, and potential to succeed in a graduate program. References that address notable service (e.g., Peace Corps or AmeriCorps) may also be informative.

See the Biology and Wildlife website (<https://www.uaf.edu/bw/>) for more detailed instructions about applying to our programs.

Note: Students are typically not admitted to the program unless a faculty advisor has agreed to serve as the mentor. Applicants should contact potential advisors before applying.

Roadmaps

Catalog Department Overview # (<https://catalog.uaf.edu/academic-departments/biology-wildlife/>)

Roadmaps provide suggested semester-by-semester study plans for programs and are based on full-time enrollment, unless otherwise specified.

- This roadmap should be used in conjunction with regular academic advising sessions. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor or mentor each semester.
- Certain courses and milestones must be completed in the specified semester to ensure on-time graduation.
- Transfer credits may affect the roadmap.
- Requirements, course availability, and sequencing may change.
- Courses marked with (*) are recommended.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL F699 ¹⁸	3 BIOL F699 ¹⁸	3
	3	3

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL F699 ¹⁸	3 BIOL F699 ¹⁸	3
	3	3

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL F699 ¹⁸	3 BIOL F699 ¹⁸	3

	Comprehensive Examination
3	3

Total Credits 18**Footnote Definitions**

General Education Requirements	Degree Requirements	Program & Other Requirements
1–Communication	8–Alaska Native-themed	20–Program Requirement
2–Arts	9–Communication	21–Capstone Requirement
3–Humanities	10–Computation	22–Concentration Course
4–Social Sciences	11–Ethics	23–General Elective
5–Additional Arts, Humanities or Social Sciences	12–Humanities	24–Minor Course
6–Mathematics	13–Human Relations	25–Upper Division
7–Natural Sciences	14–Humanities or Social Sciences	26–Program Elective
	15–Library & Information Research	
	16–Mathematics	
	17–Natural Sciences	
	18–Other	
	19–Social Sciences	

Learning Outcomes

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Learning Outcomes are specific, measurable statements that define the knowledge and skills students will gain by the end of the program.

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Demonstrate proficiency as scientists with mastery of the knowledge of their discipline and the ability to contribute original scientific knowledge through research
- Demonstrate excellent oral and written communication skills
- Obtain employment relevant to their field of study