

Program:	Biology	Dept:	Biology
Major:	Biology	College:	Mathematics and Science
Degree:	Master of Science (M.S.)	Major Code:	6600

Biology, M.S.

The M.S. Degree in Biology is designed to give students depth of training in biology beyond that provided by the baccalaureate degree. Students, in concert with their advisory committee, design a Plan of Study containing focused graduate coursework relevant to their area of interest.

All students choose one of two paths of study. The Thesis Option and the Non-Thesis Option both provide further educational depth through research and completion of specific courses selected for the students' personalized programs of study.

The Thesis Option provides graduate students with experience in the design, execution, and reporting of scientific research based upon the collection of original data. Graduate students who plan to enter research professions and/or pursue a doctorate degree should enroll in the Thesis Option.

The Non-Thesis option provides graduate students with more graduate coursework than the Thesis option. Graduate students who want to reinforce their knowledge of biology for a career as an educator at the secondary or two-year college levels may want to take advantage of this option.

Graduate Advisor:	Dr. Paul Stone
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Admission Requirements

- BS/BA in Biology or related field

Submit the following items to:

Jackson College of Graduate Studies
100 N. University Drive, NUC 404
Edmond, OK 73034

- Written statement of a graduate faculty member's commitment to serve as Major Advisor.
- Online application for admission (www.uco.edu/graduate/).
- Official copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts from each institution attended with all degrees posted. All transcripts must be from accredited institutions. Undergraduate transcripts must show a minimal 2.50 GPA overall with a preferred minimal 3.00 GPA in the last 60 hours attempted.
- GRE scores with a preferred minimum 50th percentile ranking in both the quantitative and verbal sections.
- Three letters of recommendation, one of which may be from the faculty member who will serve as Major Advisor.
- Students with a native language other than English must submit evidence of English language proficiency. See [Admission to Graduate Studies - English Language Proficiency \(p.15\)](#).

Note: Students must meet with faculty mentor/advisor in a group or individual advisement session before enrolling.

Other Requirements

- Advisory Committee. Form an Advisory Committee and meet with it at least once per academic year.
- Plan of Study. Each student, under the guidance of the Major Advisor, must file a Plan of Study with the Graduate Program Advisor and the Jackson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) by the end of the first semester of graduate work. The Plan of Study must be signed and dated by the student and the Graduate Program Advisor before it can be considered official.
- Academic Standards. Meet the following course work standards:
 - Overall GPA of 3.00 or higher.
 - No more than six hours of "C".
 - No more than six advisor-approved hours from traditional correspondence courses.

- Thesis Option. Complete a thesis, present it to the public, and defend it successfully before the Advisory Committee. The defense will include an oral comprehensive examination administered by the Advisory Committee. Submit two paper copies of the thesis and one electronic copy to the library through Proquest and the thesis' Title Page, original Signature Page, Thesis Summary Document, and Abstract Page to the JCGS.
- Non-thesis Option. Complete the Graduate Capstone which will include submission of a written document and an exit exam administered by the Advisory Committee.
- Final Requirements. Apply for graduation through the JCGS by advertised deadline.

Graduation Requirements

Thesis Option

Required Courses.....6 Hours

Course Prefix	Course No.	Course Title
BIO	5990	Thesis hours (6 total spread among semesters)

Guided Electives.....26 Hours

Courses chosen in consultation with Thesis Advisory Committee. Original research is a part of the Thesis Option.

TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED 32 HOURS

Non-thesis Option

Required Courses.....2 Hours

Course Prefix	Course No.	Course Title
BIO	5892	Graduate Capstone

Guided Electives.....30 Hours

Courses chosen in consultation with Advisory Committee.

TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED 32 HOURS

NOTE: Each student must complete 32 hours of 5000 level coursework, which includes Thesis or Graduate Capstone hours. A Plan of Study should be designed based on the student's academic record and recommendations of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee may require completion of lower-level course deficiencies or prerequisites.