

# PhD in Biological Sciences

## Degree Requirements

The Ph.D. degree requires a minimum of 72 hours. Fifteen of the 72-hour minimum must be selected from courses numbered at 8000 or 9000 level.

### Required Courses

BIO_SC 8050	Professional Survival Skills (Year 1)	2
BIO_SC 8060	Ethical Conduct of Research (Year 1)	1
BIO_SC 8087	Seminar (Continuous enrollment; 1 credit/semester)	1
BIO_SC 8187	Seminar in Areas of Specialization (6 semesters; 1 credit per semester)	1
BIO_SC 9090	Research in Biological Sciences	1-99

A student's dissertation committee must approve all coursework used to satisfy the credit-hour requirement and may require additional course work beyond these minimums. The Division requires a research-based dissertation for degree completion. The dissertation must be the student's own work and must demonstrate a capacity for research and independent thought.

## Admission Eligibility & Criteria

The Graduate program is centered on 3 pillars: innovative research, excellence in mentoring/teaching, and promoting a culture of inclusion and equity. Our goal is to foster a community in which research, teaching, and community engagement are recognized as synergistic activities of equal importance. Therefore, we have moved away from a metric-based approach and instead use a holistic evaluation of candidates. At the forefront of this process is the recognition that inclusion and equity are the foundations of a community in which diverse ideas and perspectives are likely to flourish. As such, the Division of Biological Sciences prioritizes evidence of attributes such as drive, diligence, passion for sharing scientific knowledge, and a willingness to take scientific risks over measures such as GPA, standardized test scores, and other similar qualifications.

Most of our incoming students have a broad background in biology and mathematics and have completed organic chemistry and a year of physics. Outstanding students with undergraduate degrees in areas other than biology are encouraged to apply with the understanding that subject matter in biology will be addressed in the first year of graduate study.

- Fall deadline: December 1
- Minimum TOEFL scores:

Internet-based test (iBT)	Paper-based test (PBT)
250	608

## Required Application Materials

### To the Graduate School:

- All required Graduate Admissions documents

### To the Biological Sciences Program:

- Official Transcripts
- Please see Division of Biological Sciences Graduate Studies Application page for required materials.

- 3 Reference letters
- Résumé

## Admission Contact Information

Division of Biological Sciences  
218 Tucker Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211  
(573) 884-4144