

Biology

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Degree Requirements

Master of Arts in Biology

Students seeking the Master of Arts in Biology must satisfactorily complete 30 units of graduate courses in the biological sciences, including a required capstone experience (<http://caps.wustl.edu/programs/graduate/masters-biology/final-project/>), which occurs after they have completed 21 units in the program and is chosen from the following options:

1. Complete U29 Bio 401 Problem Based Learning in the Biomedical Sciences
2. Complete a 3-unit independent study
3. Complete a 6-unit master's thesis: Students with appropriate backgrounds, interests and academic qualifications may, with authorization, write a master's thesis based on original library or laboratory research.

Note: The above options cannot count as the capstone experience if they occur before a student has completed 21 units toward the Master of Arts in Biology.

Optional Concentration in Neurobiology

School of Continuing & Professional Studies students who are admitted to the Master of Arts in Biology program may select an optional concentration in neurobiology. Neurobiology is the study of the structure and function of the nervous system. This concentration helps prepare students for careers in biomedical fields, including research and clinical practice in medicine, neuroscience and cognitive science. The optional concentration requires 12 units of courses, selected from the list below:

Choose four of the following courses:

Code	Title	Units
Bio 435	Neurobiology	3
Bio 436	The Neural Basis of Behavior	3
Bio 4721	The Biology of Membranes	3
Bio 478	Neuroscience: Sensory Systems	3
Bio 485	Synaptic Change in the Nervous System	3

Credit Transfer

A maximum of 6 credits of related and comparable graduate-level courses may be transferred from another university or from a related graduate program at Washington University with the approval of the program director. These must be graduate-level units not used to fulfill undergraduate degree requirements. Transfer credit may be granted only for authorized courses for which the student received a grade of B or higher.

Please note that the Master of Arts in Biology degree is a terminal graduate degree awarded on the basis of the completion of courses rather than research. Except in rare cases, it is not intended as preparation for a PhD degree. No more than 6 of the 30 credits required for this program may be earned in research courses. Those students interested in graduate research or in earning a PhD should apply to the PhD programs offered by Washington University's Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences (<http://dbbs.wustl.edu>).