UCollege - Biology

University College offers both a Master of Arts and a Master of Science in Biology.

Master of Arts in Biology

The AM in Biology is designed for working adults seeking to update their science knowledge; pursue a specialty such as biotechnology, ecology, neurobiology, or genetics; prepare for employment in emerging science fields; improve their professional standing; or deepen their understanding of biology. The MS in Biology is designed for middle and secondary school teachers; its curriculum integrates current research in life sciences and education to demonstrate the importance of scientific issues to the global community.

Students seeking the AM in Biology must satisfactorily complete 30 units of graduate work in the biological sciences in courses approved by the program committee, including a required capstone experience. This may be either a 3-unit capstone course or a 6-unit master's thesis. Students must have completed at least 21 units to be eligible for a capstone experience. Only students with appropriate backgrounds, interests, and academic qualifications may be authorized to write a master's thesis based on original library or laboratory research. All students admitted to the AM are required to take at least half of the course work on the Washington University campus.

Master of Science in Biology

The MS in Biology is a two-year program designed to fit the schedules of working teachers. It includes two summer institutes, three weeks each, in residence at Washington University, along with online course work during the academic years following each summer. Students seeking the MS in Biology must satisfactorily complete 30 units of prescribed course work covering a wide range of scientific topics and methods for teaching them. The program admits new students in alternate years.

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