Dual Degree Program [BA/MS in Biology]

Program Description: The Five-Year Biology BA/MS offers qualified students the opportunity to earn both a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Science in Biology degree, which may be completed in as little as five years. The curriculum is composed of two tracks that allow students to choose between Track one-tutorial option and track two-thesis option.

5-Year Combined BA/MS Biology
TRACK 1 – Tutorial Option
Year 1 - 4
120 credit B.A. in Biological Sciences. Winter and Summer Sessions must be used. In years 1-2 student must take the math, chemistry & physics prerequisites.
Year 4
Three 4 credit (12 credits) M.S. courses taken for dual credit in both degrees. Student graduates in June.
Year 5
Enrolled in M.S. program in tutorial track (34 credits 12 of which are satisfied in year 4, which includes 4 credits of Bio 792.2). Graduation by September 1.

34 M.S. Credits in Track 1
+ 12 credits, Three M.S. courses in year 4 (For example BIO 634 Cell Biology and Electron Microscopy, BIO 618 Problems in Ecology, BIO 644 Biological Chemistry)
+ 16 credits, six M.S. courses in year 5 (For example BIO 646 Statistics for Biological Research, BIO 642 Molecular Biology, BIO 710 Microbial Physiology, BIO 630 Seminar in Biology, BIO 660 Seminar in Biology)
+ 6 credits, two tutorial courses in year 5 (BIO 792.1 & BIO 792.2)
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34 credits

TRACK 2- Thesis Option
Year 1 - 4
120 credit B.A. in Biological Sciences. Winter and Summer Sessions must be used. Bio 489 (taken twice). Bio 490 in senior year. In years 1-2 student must take the math, chemistry & physics prerequisites.
Year 3 Research advisor chosen in Spring term.
Year 4 12 credits three M.S. courses taken for credit in both degrees. Must take Bio 489 in Fall and Bio 489 & Bio 490 in Spring. Graduation in June with Honors, having completed a research project under faculty sponsor.
Year 5 Enrolled in M.S. program in thesis track (30 course credits 12 of which are satisfied in year 4). Bio 799.1 (1 credit) & 799.2 (2 credits) with possibility of Bio 799.3 (3 credits). Defense
of thesis and graduation by September 1.

30-32 M.S. Credits in Track 2

12 credits, Three M.S. courses in year 4 (For example BIO 634 Cell Biology and Electron Microscopy, BIO 618 Problems in Ecology, BIO 644 Biological Chemistry)

12-14 credits, three- four M.S. courses in year 5 (For example BIO 646 Statistics for Biological Research, BIO 642 Molecular Biology, BIO 710 Microbial Physiology BIO 660 Seminar in Biology)

+ 6 credits, three thesis research courses (BIO 799.1, 799.2, & 799.3)

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30- 32 credits

Note 1: This program will allow the students to finish 1-2 years earlier than they would if they did a separate BA followed by a MS. Additionally, this program provides students with extensive research experience, which will make them more competitive for jobs and graduate doctoral programs and medical programs.

Note 2: To be eligible for the 5th year program, all students must demonstrate an interest in, demonstrated achievement in, or affinity for biology. This will be determined by having: a minimum of 48 semester hours of mathematics and sciences study including MAT175 with a GPA of 3.0. Candidates must apply to the program no later than the first semester of their junior year and may apply as early as the second semester of their sophomore year.

The accelerated pace is made possible by offering qualified students the opportunity to take masters level courses during their final year of undergraduate work. Students qualify by demonstrated attainment of a GPA of 3.0 in mathematics and science coursework as well as a GPA of 3.25 in the major through the first three years of study, and by completing all of the necessary prerequisites for those courses, which will ensure that they are prepared for graduate-level work.

Students will apply to the program at the end of their sophomore year for entry into the program in the fall of their junior year.

- During or by the end of acquiring 48 undergraduate credits.