Biology

Areas of study include: cell biology, physiology, ecology, evolution, behavior, and fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology. Specializations within these areas include developmental biology, neurobiology, genomics, invertebrate biology, animal reproduction, biorhythms, behavioral ecology, community ecology, population ecology, conservation biology, fisheries ecology, wildlife field studies, aquaculture and others.

Degrees earned will be distributed as: "Master of Biology", "Master of Science", and "Doctor of Philosophy" without area of study, specialization, or track specifications.

Application Deadlines

To guarantee consideration for funding, applications should be complete by the following dates: for Fall Semester admission both U.S. and international applicants should have their application materials completed by January 15; for Spring Semester the deadline is October 15 for U.S. applicants and international applicants. Please note that it typically requires four to six weeks from the date of your request until transcripts and letters of recommendation reach us. Applications received after the dates listed above will still be considered until the Graduate School deadlines (June 25 and November 25 for U.S. applicants, March 1 and July 15 for international applicants); however, opportunities for funding may be limited (note that the Biology Graduate Program does not accept M.S. and Ph.D. students without support).

Admission Requirements

It is important that you identify a potential faculty adviser, as this will greatly increase your chance of admission to NCSU’s Biology Graduate Program. Although all applications are made available to faculty advisers for review, a graduate student will not be admitted to the Biology Program for graduate studies unless the prospective student has identified a faculty adviser. Once a faculty adviser has requested review of a prospective student, the application is then evaluated with regard to the applicant’s potential for success in graduate school. The admissions process involves consideration of the ability of our program to accommodate students.

Successful applicants usually have a Bachelor’s degree in Biological Sciences or a related field with at least an overall B average and a minimum number of courses in biology (and related fields) and supporting fields (6 in biology, 4 in chemistry, 2 in physics, and 2 in mathematics). In addition to the applicant’s grades and coursework, we consider relevant experience (e.g., through internships, research experiences, volunteer or paid work, and publications), statement of interest, and letters of recommendation. GRE scores are not required. We expect applicants for the MS degree to have at least a 3.0 GPA, and applicants for the PhD degree to have at least a 3.2 GPA. Research experience is highly recommended.

Master’s Degree Requirements

AEC 502 and PHI 816 (or equivalent) are required. No more than six hours of temporary courses (AEC 624, BIO 624, INB 624, BIO 824) or two hours of departmental seminar can be included in the 30-hour requirement for the M.S. Six hours of research credits (INB 695) resulting in a thesis are required. A minor (usually 9-10 hours) is optional. Other requirements may be imposed by the advisor.

Doctoral Degree Requirements

AEC 502 and PHI 816 (or equivalent) are required. A student’s advisory committee recommends appropriate courses which will provide a strong foundation in the student’s area of interest. A minimum of 10 hours of research (INB 695) leading to a dissertation is required. A minor (usually 9-10 hours) is optional. Other requirements may be imposed by the advisor.

Student Financial Support

Graduate teaching and research assistantships are available to well-qualified M.R., M.S. and Ph.D. students.

Other Relevant Information

Excellent research facilities, equipment and computers are available. Off-campus research is conducted at the Pamlico Aquaculture Field Laboratory, research and extension centers in Eastern and Western North Carolina, the Center for Marine Science and Technology in Morehead City, and at facilities of state and federal agencies and private organizations. Field work can be conducted at nearby natural areas and laboratory work at various state and federal laboratories associated with the department, nationally, and internationally.

Degrees

• Biology (MR) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/agriculture-life-sciences/biology/biology-mr/)
• Biology (MS) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/agriculture-life-sciences/biology/biology-ms/)
• Biology (PhD) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/agriculture-life-sciences/biology/biology-phd/)

Adjunct Professors

David Derek Aday
Betty L. Black
Russell J. Borski
David Buchwalter
Jeffrey A. Buckel
Ignazio Carbone
Jaime A. Collazo
William Gregory Cope
Harry Valentine Daniels III
Robert R. Dunn
David B. Eggleston
John R. Godwin
Kevin Gross
Craig A. Harms
Jeffrey M. Hinshaw