

## M.A. in BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: 36 credits

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### Biological Sciences Advisors

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First Semester	Second Semester
<sup>1</sup> Biology 610 (3cr) <sup>2</sup> Biology 618 (3cr) or 628 (2cr) <sup>3</sup> Biology 620 (1cr) or 630 (1cr) <sup>4</sup> Biology Elective (2 to 4cr) <sup>5</sup> Biology 678 (1cr) Total semester credits = 9	<sup>1</sup> Biology 610 (3cr) <sup>3</sup> Biology 620 (1cr) or 630 (1cr) <sup>4</sup> Biology Elective (2 to 4cr) <sup>4</sup> Biology Elective (2 to 4cr) Total semester credits = 9
Third Semester	Fourth Semester
<sup>1</sup> Biology 610 (3cr) <sup>3</sup> Biology 620 (1cr) or 630 (1cr) <sup>4</sup> Biology Elective (2 to 4cr) <sup>4</sup> Biology Elective (2 to 4cr) Total semester credits = 9	<sup>4</sup> Biology Elective (2 to 4cr) <sup>4</sup> Biology Elective (2 to 4cr) <sup>4</sup> Biology Elective (2 to 4cr) Total semester credits = 9

Each semester it is recommended that you **enroll in approximately 9 credits.**

### Notes:

- <sup>1</sup>Biology 610 must be repeated for a minimum of 6 credits and maximum of 9 credits.
- <sup>2</sup>It is required to take either Biology 618 or Biology 628. Biology 628 is only offered during the Fall Semester.
- <sup>3</sup>Biology 620 and/or 630 must be repeated for a minimum of 3 credits.
- <sup>4</sup>Elective courses in the **Biological Sciences** include: BIOL 514, 518, 520, 522, 530, 534, 536, 541, 542, 553, 555, 556, 557, 558, 560, 561, 562, 564, 565, 566, 568, 572, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 580, 582, 584, 590, 591, 601, 603, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 650, 652, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 678, 680. Other 500 or 600-level courses may be selected with advisor approval. Refer to the University Catalog for course descriptions and further information.
- <sup>5</sup>Biology 678 is only offered during the Fall Semester and is required to take once if you receive a Graduate Teaching Assistantship. If you are not a Graduate Teaching Assistant it is not required but can serve as an elective.

### Other comments:

- This degree is designed for on campus, fully online, or students who combine campus and online courses.
- SCSU requires a minimum of 36 semester credits to earn a Master of Arts degree.
- SCSU requires a minimum of 18 credits at the 600-level for graduation.
- Some courses are offered fully online and/or in the summer. Contact Departments after February 1<sup>st</sup> to inquire about summer course offerings. Contact your advisor regarding courses that are offered fully online.
- Assistantship provides a tuition remission up to 8 credits each semester. If you receive a Graduate Teaching Assistantship you must enroll in Biology 678 (1cr) during your first Fall Semester.
- It is essential to contact your biology graduate advisor during your first semester. During your **first semester** you should 1) declare your Program of Study, and 2) form a graduate committee composed of your faculty advisor, a second faculty member from biology, and an outside faculty member from a department other than biology. Additional faculty members or external scientists/faculty can be added as approved by the faculty advisor and department. A "Culminating Project Committee" form indicating the composition of your committee, and a "Program of Study" form needs to be completed during your first semester.
- During your **fourth semester** you must take the M.A. Comprehensive Exam as the final culminating project of the degree. Following the completion of the exam your committee will submit a "Report of Final Evaluation Committee" form indicating the result of the Exam. The Exam consists of 10 core concept questions (i.e., experimental design, evolution, etc.) and 10 coursework-based exam questions. The Graduate Committee chair chooses core concepts coursework-based questions from a question bank provided by the graduate faculty and maintained by the Biological Sciences Graduate Committee. Each question is graded individually as pass/fail. A student **passes the exam** with 75 percent passed answers (i.e., 15 of 20 answers are graded "pass"). A student who received a pass grade on 10-14 questions (50-70 percent) will be given **one** chance to retake the exam within six months of receiving the grades for the first MA exam. Students retaking the exam will receive 10 new core concepts and 10 new coursework-based questions from the question bank. Only one retake of the MA exam is permitted.