

M.S. in BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: 30 credits

Department of Biological Sciences: Phone 320-308-2039 or biology@stcloudstate.edu

Biological Sciences Advisors

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First Semester	Second Semester
¹ Biology 610 (3cr) ² Biology 628 (2cr) ³ Biology 630 (1cr) ⁴ Biology 678 (1cr) ⁶ Biology 699 (1cr) Total semester credits = 8	¹ Biology 610 (3cr) ³ Biology 630 (1cr) ⁵ 500 or 600-level STAT course (3cr) ⁶ Biology 699 (1cr) Total semester credits = 8
Third Semester	Fourth Semester
¹ Biology 610 (3cr) ³ Biology 630 (1cr) ⁶ Biology 699 (0 or 1cr) ⁷ Biology Elective (2 to 4cr) Total semester credits = 8	⁶ Biology 699 (3 or 4cr) ⁷ Biology Elective (2 to 4cr) Total semester credits = 8

Each semester it is recommended that you **enroll in approximately 8 credits.**

Notes:

- ¹Biology 610 must be repeated for a minimum of 6 credits and maximum of 9 credits.
- ²Biology 628 is only offered during the Fall Semester
- ³Biology 630 must be repeated up to 3 credits.
- ⁴Biology 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.
- ⁵A 500 or 600-level STAT course should be selected with the approval of your advisor. Some suggestions include STAT 321/501, STAT 325/501, STAT 521.
- ⁶Biology 699 must be repeated up to 6 credits.
- ⁷Possible elective courses in 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.

Other comments:

- SCSU requires a minimum of 30 semester credits to earn a Master of Science degree.
- SCSU requires a minimum of 15 credits at the 600-level for graduation.
- Some courses, are offered in the summer. Contact Departments after February 1st to inquire about expected summer course offerings.
- Assistantship provides a tuition remission up to 8 credits each semester. If you receive a Graduate Teaching Assistantship, enroll in Biology 678 (1 credit) during first Fall Semester.
- It is essential to contact your biology graduate advisor during the first semester. During your **first semester** you should 1) declare your program of study and 2) form a graduate committee that is 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. 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 **second semester** you should organize a committee meeting to discuss your proposed thesis research and your plan for how you will accomplish this work (thesis proposal defense). While it depends on the faculty advisor, you will typically need to prepare a written document outlining your thesis plan and give a presentation about this plan. Following the completion of this meeting you will need to submit a "Report of Preliminary Evaluation Committee" form indicating the committee's decision regarding your thesis plan.

- You **cannot** hold a thesis proposal defense committee meeting and a final thesis defense meeting in the same academic semester.
- During your **fourth semester** you should begin to finalize writing your thesis, and prepare for your final public and private thesis defense. **A public defense is a requirement** for the Biological Sciences M.S. program and your public defense must be advertised at least a week in advance. In addition to a public defense, you will need to schedule a final committee meeting for your private defense, and submit a “Report of Final Evaluation Committee” form following the completion of your thesis defense.
- During your **fourth semester** you will need to upload your thesis into the institution repository, and have it finalized for approval by the graduate school. The School of Graduate Studies provides detailed instructions on the formatting of the thesis document and how to upload your final submission. Contact School of Graduate Studies at graduatestudies@stcloudstate.edu or 320-308-2113.

September 2019