The M.S. degree requires completion of a minimum of 30 credits, 6–10 of which may be earned for thesis research (BIOL 899 Master’s Thesis). The Biological Sciences Program specifies 2 credits’ worth of required coursework (BIOL 901 Introductory Graduate Seminar); most students use 6 more credits to satisfy the competency requirement in experimental design/analysis (BIOL 811 Experimental Design & Analysis or BIOL 933 Design, Analysis, and Interpretation of Experiments, 4 credits) and recommended coursework in writing/communication (BIOL 902 Writing and Publishing Science or BIOL 950 Scientific Communication, 2 credits). Other graduate coursework approved by the student’s committee can substitute for any of these courses except BIOL 901 Introductory Graduate Seminar.

Up to 8 credits of graduate credit from another institution may be transferred, provided the credits were not counted toward another degree, and the course grade was a B or higher. Petitions requesting transfer credit must be supported by the advisor and graduate committee, and approved by the UNH Graduate School.

### Required Courses, Competencies, and Electives

All students in the Biological Sciences Graduate Program are required to take Introductory Graduate Seminar (BIOL 901 Introductory Graduate Seminar) and fulfill all applicable competency requirements (these may vary by option). Those with teaching assistantships (TAs) must enroll in College Teaching (LSA 900 College Teaching) before or concurrent with their first teaching assignment.

1. **Core Course.** Introductory Graduate Seminar (Introductory Graduate Seminar (BIOL 901)). This first-semester course focuses on key information and skills for a successful transition into the graduate program, familiarizing students with program requirements and faculty and providing an opportunity to meet others in their cohort.

2. **Competency in experimental design and analysis.** This may be fulfilled by previous graduate coursework (as determined by the student’s advisor and committee), or by taking one graduate-level course. Two advanced courses in experimental design and analysis are offered, normally in alternate years. The first is Applied Biostatistics II (Experimental Design & Analysis (BIOL 811)), and the second is Design, Analysis and Interpretation of Experiments (Design, Analysis, and Interpretation of Experiments (BIOL 933)). Either course, or an equivalent approved by the student’s advisor and committee (e.g. Analysis of Ecological Communities and Complex Data (NR 909)), can be used to fulfill this competency requirement.

3. **Electives.** Students will work with their advisor and committee to identify additional courses appropriate for their area of specialization and their career objectives. Recommendations often include coursework in professional writing and communication: Scientific Writing (Writing and Publishing Science (BIOL 902)) is taught fall semester, and open to students at any stage of the program. Scientific Communication (Scientific Communication (BIOL 950)) is usually taught in spring. A course in Grant Writing (Grant Writing (NR 905)) is offered by the Department of Natural Resources.

### Additional Information/Requirements

All students in the Biological Sciences Program are expected to present their research in public seminars (including the UNH Graduate Research Conference), and acquire teaching and/or mentoring experience.

A summary of M.S. and Ph.D. degree requirements is available at [https://colsa.unh.edu/biological-sciences/program/ms/biological-sciences-integrative-and-organismal-biology](https://colsa.unh.edu/biological-sciences/program/ms/biological-sciences-integrative-and-organismal-biology) and the program’s graduate handbook, which includes expectations, guidelines, and detailed policies.