

COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES

The College of Natural and Applied Sciences offers a Master of Science Degree in Biology. Courses for the Master of Science Degree are taught by faculty from the College and Applied Sciences, the Marine Laboratory and the Water and Environmental Research Institute. The program is designed to serve those students who are pursuing a research-oriented career at the master's level, those using the master's degree as a stepping stone to a doctorate, a career in natural resource management or environmental consulting, and biology teachers who have fulfilled requirements for teacher's certification but seek a broader knowledge of biology. In addition to obtaining the Master of Science in Biology, candidates have the opportunity to study in one of the most interesting regions in the Western Pacific. The Graduate Program in Biology has many facets comparable to mainland programs and provides outstanding opportunities in tropical marine science (see the section on the Marine Laboratory in this Bulletin).

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the program, students will demonstrate the following:

1. Demonstrate ability to analyze data and design experiments using standard statistical procedures.
2. Demonstrate ability to write technical scientific reports and articles.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of basic organismal and ecological principles.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of basic cellular and molecular-level principles.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the latest advances in a variety of fields in biology.

6. Demonstrate ability to conceive, conduct and report original research.
7. Demonstrate the ability to disseminate scientific concepts and research findings in a variety of formats (e.g., written and oral).

ADMISSION

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

*Biology Graduate Program applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a completed application by **July 1** for the Fañuchånan/Fall semester and by **December 1** for the Fañomnåkan/Spring semester. Reviews and decisions for applications received after this deadline, are at the program's discretion and not guaranteed.*

1. Completed all the pre-requisites for the program:
 - One term (semester or quarter) of Calculus,
 - Two terms of Physics or Geology,
 - Four terms of Chemistry and
 - Four terms of Biology, of which at least two are upper division.
2. Students may take these pre-requisites while at UOG; however, courses taken to make up any deficiencies shall not be applied to the total credits required for a graduate degree.
3. Submit three letters of reference from academics or professionals who are familiar with the student's qualifications. Letters should be submitted directly to the Graduate Admissions office.
4. Complete and submit a Program Entry Form (steps on how to do this are given on the Program website) which is then signed by the Graduate Biology Program Chair.

Interested students may contact [Héloïse Louise Rouzé](#), Graduate Biology Chair for Admissions, for more information.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students enrolled in the Graduate Biology Program are required to complete all coursework and the degree requirements within seven years of admission to the Graduate School. Students requiring leave of absence must write to the Program Chair and provide evidence (e.g. medical certificate) to support their claim. If approved, the time in absence does not count towards the seven-year rule (a definition of this rule is in the General Admission Requirements section).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (30 CREDIT HOURS)

The degree program requires a total of 30 hours of graduate credit, at least 18 of which must be at the 500 or 600 level including six hours of Thesis Research (BI-695). A maximum of six credit hours may be accepted in related graduate-level courses. A thesis committee is established by completing and submitting a Permission for Thesis/Special Project Form which is then signed by the Graduate Biology Program Chair and Dean. The thesis committee is composed of a minimum of three (3) members; at least two (2) Biology Program Graduate Faculty members and one (1) outside member. The outside member is compulsory and can either be from the UOG Faculty (Graduate or otherwise), or from off-campus. If the latter, then these individuals may serve as committee members after submitting a CV documenting their qualifications for approval by the Biology Program Chair. The advisor or Committee Chair must be a listed Biology Program Graduate Faculty member.

Graduate students must maintain a B average (3.0) and make no more than one grade of C (2.0) or lower to be admitted to the degree program. Once admitted, students must meet the same criteria in order to continue in the Program. A student whose cumulative grade-point average (GPA) is below 3.0 has one semester of probation to raise the average back to at least 3.0 before being dismissed from the program. Cumulative GPA is calculated each semester by the Office of Admissions & Records.

Required Courses (14 Credit Hours)

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
BI507	ADVANCED STATISTICAL METHODS	4	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
BI503	BIOLOGICAL LITERATURE AND SCIENTIFIC WRITING	2	SPRING ONLY/ ALL YEARS
BI691	SEMINAR	1	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
BI695	THESIS	1 - 6	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

**Must take at least 2 credits of BI-691 Seminar to complete the 14 credit requirement*

Elective Courses (16 credit hours)

Complete at least 16 credit hours

FACULTY

PROGRAM CHAIR

David Combosch

Associate Professor of Population Genetics | Graduate Biology Program Chair
Marine Lab
(671) 735-2182
comboschd@triton.uog.edu

MEMBERS

Bastian Bentlage

Associate Professor of Bioinformatics
Marine Lab
(671) 735-0320
bentlageb@triton.uog.edu

Laura A.F. Biggs

Associate Professor of Biology / I Meyeng UOG-Certified
Online Teacher
College of Natural & Applied Sciences
(671) 735-2783
lbiggs@triton.uog.edu

Ciemon Caballes

Senior Research Associate, Ecophysiology and
Echinoderm/Coral Ecology
Marine Lab
(671) 735-2697
caballesc@triton.uog.edu

Frank A. Camacho

Associate Professor of Biology
College of Natural & Applied Sciences
(671) 735-2835
fcamacho@triton.uog.edu

Else N. Demeulenaere

Associate Director
Center for Island Sustainability
(671)-735-2918
else@uog.edu

Terry J. Donaldson

Professor of Ichthyology
Marine Lab
(671) 735-0130
tdonaldson@triton.uog.edu

G. Curt Fiedler

Professor of Biology
College of Natural & Applied Sciences
(671) 734-2788
gcfiedler@triton.uog.edu

Atsushi Fujimura

Associate Professor of Oceanography
Marine Lab
(671) 735-2190
fujimuraa@triton.uog.edu

Peter Houk

Professor of Marine Biology
Marine Lab
(671) 735-2188
houpk@triton.uog.edu

Alexander M. Kerr

Professor of Marine Biology
Marine Lab
(671) 735-2696
akerr@triton.uog.edu

Robert Lasley

Senior Research Associate (Crustacean Biologist)
Research Corporation of the University of Guam
lasleyr@triton.uog.edu

Sarah Lemer

Assistant Professor of Marine Invertebrate Genomics
Marine Lab
(671) 735-2187
lemers@triton.uog.edu

Daniel P. Lindstrom

Associate Professor of Biology
College of Natural & Applied Sciences
(671) 735-2611
dlindstrom@triton.uog.edu

Ross H. Miller

Professor of Entomology
Western Pacific Tropical Research Center
(671) 735-2145
millerr@triton.uog.edu

Laurie J. Raymundo

Director / Professor of Marine Biology
Marine Lab
(671) 735-2184
lraymundo@triton.uog.edu

Héloïse Louise Rouzé

Senior Research Associate (Marine Microbiologist)
Marine Lab
(671) 777-5084
rouzeh@triton.uog.edu

Tom Schils

Professor of Marine Biology / Phycology
Marine Lab
(671) 735-2185
tschils@triton.uog.edu

Brett Taylor

Assistant Professor of Fisheries Ecology

Marine Lab
(671) 735-2697
taylorb@triton.uog.edu

Diego Vaz

Senior Research Associate (Vertebrate Morphology)
Marine Lab
bistonvazd@triton.uog.edu

Wei Xiao

Assistant Professor of Biology / Curator of UOG
Herbarium
College of Natural & Applied Sciences
(671) 735-2791
xiaow@triton.uog.edu