

Valdosta State University

GENERAL GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:

See the Valdosta State University Graduate Bulletin (also available online from the Graduate School web page) for information on student classifications and admissions criteria.

Graduate students must maintain a minimum graduate grade point average of 2.5 to be eligible for financial aid.

1. **Academic GPA Requirements:** For graduation, the cumulative graduate grade-point average must be **3.0** or higher on a 4.0 scale. Throughout their program, students' performance must be **acceptable** on a continuing basis. Students must at all times maintain an overall grade-point average of not less than 2.5. No grade below "C" will be credited toward a graduate degree. Any student acquiring any combination of two grades "D," "F," "WF," or "U" will be dismissed from the Graduate School. Additional requirements have been established for the Master of Business Administration program; the Master of Science programs with majors in Criminal Justice, Marriage s.1 (p)-10 (r)3 (oa1 (3 (i)-2 d)-10 (e)N94 (a)4Cj0.05 T

key principles relating to these standards are found in the Thesis and Dissertation Guide at <<http://www.valdosta.edu/gradschool>>.

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Advising**
Thesis Option - Major Advisor and Thesis Committee:

deems acceptable and supportive of the program of study (e.g., math, geology, chemistry, physics, education, etc.). Students working in educational fields may use the approved six credit hours outside the major to take science education coursework that will enhance the individual's ability to teach.

A typical program of study will include:

BIOL 7010, 7020 or 7030 Special Topics	2 hours
BIOL 7050 Experimental Design and Data Analysis	3 hours
BIOL 7900 Graduate Seminar	2 hours
Courses appropriate to the program of study, numbered 7000 or above	2 hours
Biology electives numbered 5000 or above	up to 15 hours
Non-Biology electives numbered 5000 or above.....	up to 6 hours
BIOL 8999 Thesis	6 hours
 Total	 30 hours

Curriculum Requirements-Non-Thesis Option

Non-thesis option programs of study will consist of 30 semester hours. Of these 30 semester hours, a minimum of 9 hours must be in courses numbered 7000 or above, including 2-4 hours of Graduate Seminar (BIOL 7900), 2-4 hours of Special Topics (BIOL 7010, 7020 or 7030) and 3 hours of Experimental Design and Data Analysis (BIOL 7050). Both Special Topics and Graduate Seminar may be taken more than once. Even if not enrolled, students are expected to attend seminar every semester. Students may take up to six hours of approved course work outside of biology that the thesis committee deems acceptable and supportive of the program of study (e.g., math, geology, chemistry, physics, education, etc.). Students working in educational fields may use the approved six credit hours outside the major to take science education coursework that will enhance the individual's ability to teach.

A typical program of study will include:

BIOL 7010, 7020 or 7030 Special Topics	2-4 hours
BIOL 7050 Experimental Design and Data Analysis	3 hours
BIOL 7900 Graduate Seminar	2-4 hours
BIOL 6850/6950 Directed Study/Internship.....	3-6 hours
Biology electives numbered 5000 or above	up to 15 hours
 Non-Biology electives numbered 5000 or above.....	 up to 6 hours
 Total	 30 hours

4. **Thesis Proposal:** During their first semester, students must identify an appropriate

responsibility of the Biology Graduate Committee to evaluate the performance of TAs each semester. Evaluation consists of one member of the committee attending class on a day and time mutually agreed upon with the student. The evaluator will determine whether to utilize the departmental evaluation form (available from the Biology grad

PROGRAM COMPLETION AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Competency Exam:** Students will be required to pass a competency exam covering general subject areas, the program of study course work, as well as specific areas related to the thesis topic prior to the completion of 27 hours of coursework. Format consists of a written component with a follow-up oral examination. Style and content of the exam will be developed and administered by the thesis committee members. Students must pass the competency exam, as determined by the examining thesis committee, to achieve candidate status for the degree and remain in the program. Students not successfully passing the competency exam may, at the thesis committee's discretion, be re-examined after completion of appropriate remedial work as determined by the thesis committee. Students failing to pass competency exams and denied a re-examination by the thesis committee will be dismissed from the program.
- 2. Application for Graduation:** Students must apply for graduation one semester in advance.

The defense is usually an oral discussion/presentation of your project and is open to the academic community and invited guests.”