M.A. in Biochemistry & Biophysics; Microbiology; or Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology

Molecular Biosciences Masters Programs

Molecular Biosciences is an interdisciplinary group of faculty, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students who perform cutting edge research across a wide range of areas (http://molecularbiosciences.ku.edu/research), including biochemistry, biophysics, structural biology, bioinformatics, cancer biology, genetics, genomics, immunology, microbiology, virology, neurobiology, molecular, cellular and developmental biology. Our researchers investigate fundamental biological and biomedical problems on all levels, from molecules to cells to organisms. Our research labs collaborate to solve complex questions using a range of approaches, and make use of the world-class core facilities at KU. The Department of Molecular Biosciences at the University of Kansas is an excellent environment for research and graduate training in biology.

The department offers Master of Arts degrees in Biochemistry and Biophysics (http://molecularbiosciences.ku.edu/biochemistry-graduate-program), in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology (MCDB (http://molecularbiosciences.ku.edu/mcdb-graduate-program)), and in Microbiology (http://molecularbiosciences.ku.edu/microbiology-0). General information about the department, our faculty and students, and alumni of our graduate programs can be found on our website (http://molecularbiosciences.ku.edu). Detailed information about admission (http://molecularbiosciences.ku.edu/admissions) to our graduate program, curricula (http://molecularbiosciences.ku.edu/Ph.D.-Overview), and financial support (http://molecularbiosciences.ku.edu/MBGraduateProgramFAQs) is also available.

Note that the various B.A. and B.S. undergraduate degree programs in biology are listed at the Biology Undergraduate Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/biology) page.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Graduate Admission

The Department of Molecular Biosciences (http://molecularbiosciences.ku.edu) recognizes the importance of investing in the careers of future biomedical scientists. We welcome graduate students into our vibrant scientific community, where they have the opportunity to become outstanding researchers and prepare for an exciting future in science.

All students seeking a graduate degree must submit a formal application to the Molecular Biosciences graduate program. Full information on the application process, and a link to apply online can be found on our website (http://molecularbiosciences.ku.edu/admissions). Application materials for the Molecular Biosciences graduate program include:

1. An application form and fee;
2. 1 official copy of all academic transcripts (international students must also provide a translated copy);
3. A CV or résumé (1 to 2 pages);
4. Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores - General Exam;
5. 3 letters of recommendation;
6. A description of your research interests and professional goals (1 to 2 pages); and
7. International applicants are required to have a Minimum IBT SPEAKING score of 22 AND all parts scores at least 20; or IELTS SPEAKING score of 8. Scores should be no older than 2 years.

Applications should be received by December 15 are reviewed by the Molecular Biosciences Graduate Admissions Committee. Applications are evaluated based on several criteria, including GPA, GRE scores, strength of recommendation letters, previous research experience, and the fit of the applicant's career goals with our educational program. Students will be informed of admissions decisions as soon as possible, generally before mid-March.

All supporting documentation should be uploaded online when you apply. If this is not possible, please send documentation to:

John Connolly
Graduate Program Coordinator
The University of Kansas
Department of Molecular Biosciences
Haworth Hall
1200 Sunnyside Ave., Room 2034
Lawrence, KS 66045-7566

M.A. Degree Requirements:

Biochemistry and Biophysics

General Requirements for All M.A. Students

Refer to each discipline for specific course requirements. General requirements include

1. A minimum of 30 hours of graduate credit;
2. A minimum of 1 laboratory rotation during the first semester of graduate study;
3. Enrollment every semester in BIOL 701 Topics in Molecular Biosciences Seminar;
4. Completion of the following courses: BIOL 807 Graduate Molecular Biosciences and BIOL 818 Techniques in Molecular Biosciences;
5. A graduate committee established by the beginning of the spring semester of the first year;
6. A minimum of 1 annual graduate committee meeting until completion of the degree.

The following thesis options are available:
1. Write a thesis resulting from original research on a laboratory problem.
2. Publish a research paper in a national, refereed journal. Acceptance of the paper for publication constitutes publication for conferral of the degree.
3. Write a library thesis on a topic approved by the student’s graduate committee.

Specific M.A. Requirements:

- BIOL 750 Advanced Biochemistry 3
- BIOL 772 Gene Expression 3

Electives to satisfy the 30-hour requirement. Electives are determined in consultation with the graduate advisor and graduate committee.

Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

General Requirements for All M.A. Students

Refer to each discipline for specific course requirements. General requirements include

1. A minimum of 30 hours of graduate credit;
2. A minimum of 1 laboratory rotation during the first semester of graduate study;
3. Enrollment every semester in BIOL 701 Topics in Molecular Biosciences Seminar;
4. Completion of the following courses: BIOL 807 Graduate Molecular Biosciences and BIOL 818 Techniques in Molecular Biosciences;
5. A graduate committee established by the beginning of the spring semester of the first year;
6. A minimum of 1 annual graduate committee meeting until completion of the degree.

The following thesis options are available:

1. Write a thesis resulting from original research on a laboratory problem.
2. Publish a research paper in a national, refereed journal. Acceptance of the paper for publication constitutes publication for conferral of the degree.
3. Write a library thesis on a topic approved by the student’s graduate committee.

Specific M.A. Requirements:

- BIOL 752 Cell Biology 3
- BIOL 755 Mechanisms of Development 3
- BIOL 753 Advanced Genetics 3
- or BIOL 772 Gene Expression

Electives to satisfy the 30-hour course requirement. Electives are determined in consultation with the graduate advisor and graduate committee.

Microbiology

General Requirements for All M.A. Students

Refer to each discipline for specific course requirements. General requirements include

1. A minimum of 30 hours of graduate credit;
2. A minimum of 1 laboratory rotation during the first semester of graduate study;
3. Enrollment every semester in BIOL 701 Topics in Molecular Biosciences Seminar;
4. Completion of the following courses: BIOL 807 Graduate Molecular Biosciences and BIOL 818 Techniques in Molecular Biosciences;
5. A graduate committee established by the beginning of the spring semester of the first year;
6. A minimum of 1 annual graduate committee meeting until completion of the degree.

The following thesis options are available:

1. Write a thesis resulting from original research on a laboratory problem.
2. Publish a research paper in a national, refereed journal. Acceptance of the paper for publication constitutes publication for conferral of the degree.
3. Write a library thesis on a topic approved by the student’s graduate committee.

Specific M.A. Requirements:

Select at least three graduate courses from the following: 6

- BIOL 811 Advanced Molecular and Cellular Immunology
- BIOL 812 Mechanisms of Host-Parasite Relationships
- BIOL 813 Advanced Bacterial Physiology
- BIOL 814 Advanced Molecular Virology
- BIOL 815 Advanced Molecular Genetics

Plus electives to satisfy the 30-hour course requirement. No more than 6 of these hours can be below the 700 level. Electives are determined in consultation with the graduate advisor and graduate committee.