Doctor of Philosophy in Botany

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Graduate Programs

The department comprises a large number of biologists with a variety of research interests. 3 broad overlapping themes capture the interests and activities in EEB — biodiversity and macroevolution, ecology and global change biology, and evolutionary mechanisms. The department offers graduate study leading to Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in botany, entomology, and ecology and evolutionary biology. General information about the department and its faculty, current graduate students, admission, and financial support may be found on the department's website [http://www2.ku.edu/~eeb/](http://www2.ku.edu/~eeb/). Students who are interested in enrolling in EEB graduate level coursework without admission to a graduate program are encouraged to apply for graduate non-degree seeking student status. See the department’s admission webpage [https://eeb.ku.edu/admission-requirements/](https://eeb.ku.edu/admission-requirements/) for further details.

Neotropical biodiversity is a special area of concentration among EEB faculty. Many faculty members have courtesy appointments in the Latin American Area Studies Program, which fosters multidisciplinary research in Latin America across the campus. KU is a member of the Organization for Tropical Studies, and many faculty members and students participate in advanced, field-oriented OTS courses. Graduate students can receive fellowships for courses, e.g. BIOL 786 [https://catalog.ku.edu/search/?P=BIOL%20786/](https://catalog.ku.edu/search/?P=BIOL%20786/) Fundamentals of Tropical Biology, or research projects in Costa Rica. Other EEB faculty have research concentrations in Asia, Africa, Antarctica, and elsewhere, creating a genuinely global reach for EEB research activities.

(B.A. and B.S. degree programs in biology are listed under Biology Undergraduate Programs [https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/biology/].)

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/](http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs [http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/](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.

Botany

Required Course Work

Most course work requirements for EEB graduate students are identified during the student’s preliminary advisory meeting. Students are expected to take graduate-level courses (or have equivalent knowledge) in ecology, evolution, and systematics. A student’s advisory committee may add course requirements to a student’s degree program during annual meetings. Listed below are specific course requirements for all doctoral students in the EEB department:

1. Students must complete BIOL 805 Scientific Integrity in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology during the first year of graduate education in the fall semester. They are expected to attend departmental seminars in subsequent semesters.
2. Students must complete the BIOL 801 Core Topics in Current EEB Research seminar course during the first year of graduate study in the spring semester.
3. Students must complete a graduate-level course in statistics, typically fulfilled by completing BIOL 841 Biometry I. Alternatively, students may demonstrate equivalent background knowledge.
4. Students pursuing the doctorate must complete at least 1 credit hour of BIOL 999 Doctoral Dissertation.

In addition, students seeking a Ph.D. in botany must take a specialty seminar focusing on a plant-related topic and must complete a graduate-level course in each of the following 3 areas:

1. Plant ecology
2. Plant systematics or morphology
3. Plant development or physiology