Doctor of Philosophy in Entomology

The department comprises a large number of biologists with a variety of research interests. Three 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 ecology and evolutionary biology, botany, and entomology. 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/).

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) 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/) 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 departmental graduate admissions committee reviews the record of each applicant. Admission is based on background, preparation, test scores, and academic performance. The committee considers each candidate’s overall undergraduate record in the context of the institution(s) from which the record was received. A graduate student should have a broad undergraduate background in natural science and math, including calculus, physics, chemistry, organismal biology, genetics, ecology, and evolutionary biology. Faculty recommendations, honors, awards, undergraduate research experience, publications, and professional experience also are considered. Enthusiasm, scientific expertise, and clarity of writing as evidenced by the applicant’s essay are particularly important.

A bachelor's degree or equivalent and a minimum overall grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required for regular admission. The master’s degree is not a prerequisite for entering a Ph.D. program. Non-native speakers of English must meet English proficiency requirements as described here (http://graduate.ku.edu/english-proficiency-requirements/). For more details on admission requirements, visit the EEB website (http://www2.ku.edu/~eeb/).

Applicants are encouraged to seek a faculty sponsor through correspondence with one or more faculty members prior or during the application process. Prospective doctoral students who would prefer to do rotations with two or three faculty members in their first year, should indicate a general field of interest and a short list of prospective faculty mentors on their application. Interested students are encouraged to visit campus to meet faculty members and graduate students. Graduate school is critically important in beginning a career, and the choice of a program in which to enroll should be made carefully.

The number of students admitted is limited. Qualified candidates may be denied admission because of lack of a faculty sponsor, financial support, or research facilities.

Applications and supplemental materials may be submitted online. Applications from underrepresented groups are encouraged. For a detailed description of the application process, visit the EEB website (http://www2.ku.edu/~eeb/). All application materials for fall admission must be received no later than December 1. Only complete applications are considered. Send inquiries to the graduate coordinator (a4ashe@ku.edu).

Entomology

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.

Students seeking a Ph.D. in entomology must take BIOL 500 Biology of Insects and BIOL 502 Laboratory in Insect Biology and Diversity unless they have taken equivalent courses. Students who have taken a course equivalent to BIOL 502 elsewhere still are encouraged to take BIOL 502 to familiarize themselves with the local insect fauna. In addition, students must take both of the following courses: BIOL 708 External Morphology of Insects and BIOL 711 Insect Systematics.