

Animal Behavior, PhD

LAANBPHD

Are you fascinated by interactions between animals, people and the changing environment? Are you interested in discovering and developing new ideas in research? Join a nurturing community of world-renowned faculty and exceptional peers, and tackle emerging questions in the dynamic field of animal behavior.

Program description

Degree awarded: PHD Animal Behavior

The PhD program in animal behavior is a transdisciplinary graduate degree program that provides doctoral-level training in mechanistic and functional approaches to understanding behavior in a variety of animal taxa.

The study of behavior is at the interface of several scientific disciplines, including anatomy, ecology, evolution, neuroscience and physiology. This program offers the diverse but specialized array of skills and knowledge needed to produce excellent research in animal behavior.

Students gain expertise with applied scientific value in areas such as veterinary science and mental and behavioral health in humans. The ecological focus of the program feeds into local, state and global priorities in biological conservation and ecosystem sustainability.

At a glance

- **College/School:** [The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe](#)

Degree requirements

84 credit hours, an oral and written exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

Required Core (8 credit hours)

ANB 601 Research Strategies in Animal Behavior (4)

ANB 602 Current Issues in Animal Behavior (1)

Electives or Research (64 credit hours)**Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)**

ANB 799 Dissertation (12)

Additional Curriculum Information

Core course ANB 602 is a one credit hour course taken four times.

The department and the student's advisor determine a plan for elective and research courses in conjunction with the student.

Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in a related discipline from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants must submit the following:

1. graduate admissions application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. academic record form
4. personal statement
5. curriculum vitae or resume
6. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of [English proficiency](#) regardless of their current residency.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Program learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Review the literature relevant to the research question in animal behavior that they address in their dissertation.
- Execute a research plan of their own design that addresses a significant scientific question about animal behavior.
- Communicate the rationale and results of their research, both orally and in writing.

Career opportunities

A doctorate in animal behavior provides strong preparation for academic careers at every level, including community colleges and research universities. The skills and knowledge obtained in this program are also valuable for government careers in federal and state agencies responsible for wildlife management and conservation, and for conservation-related careers in nongovernmental organizations.

Career examples include:

- animal scientist
- biology professor
- conservation biologist
- postsecondary biology teacher
- wildlife biologist

Contact information

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