

Biology (Biology and Society), MS

LABIOSMS

Do you need more than a foundation in biology? Do you want to take your training into society and bring about change? Within this multidisciplinary program, you can develop knowledge and skills for tangible action and prepare for employment, a PhD or other professional studies.

Program description

Degree awarded: MS Biology (Biology and Society)

In the biology and society concentration of the MS program in biology, students examine topics in which biology intersects with society.

The concentration tailors individual plans of study to individual needs and interests, with a solid grounding in the life and related sciences and with a rigorous analytical and interdisciplinary education. The program offers suggested courses for those wishing to focus on these areas: bioethics, policy and law; biology education research; ecology, economics and ethics of the environment; and history and philosophy of science.

Bioethics, policy and law --- Students are trained in the pressing moral, policy and legal issues raised by the biosciences and biomedicine and in the disciplinary methods necessary to address these issues.

Biology education research --- This focuses on using education research to identify ways to improve undergraduate biology education broadly.

Ecology, economics and ethics of the environment --- This area trains students in the theory and empirical methods for understanding, analyzing and shaping policy for coupled human-natural systems.

History and philosophy of science --- Students are trained in the conceptual foundations of science, especially the epistemological and methodological assumptions that shape science and its progress.

At a glance

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

Accelerated program options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an [accelerated bachelor's plus master's degree](#) with:

[Biological Sciences, BS](#)

[Biological Sciences \(Biology and Society\), BS](#)

[Biological Sciences \(Biomedical Sciences\), BS](#)

[Biological Sciences \(Conservation Biology and Ecology\), BS](#)

[Biological Sciences \(Genetics, Cell and Developmental Biology\), BS](#)

[Biological Sciences \(Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior\), BS](#)

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. Students typically receive approval to pursue the accelerated master's during the junior year of their bachelor's degree program. Interested students can learn about eligibility requirements and [how to apply](#).

Degree requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis

Required Core (1 credit hour)

BIO 610 Introduction to Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) in Life Sciences (1) or BIO 611
Current Topics in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) in the Life Sciences (1)

Concentration (2 credit hours)

BIO 615 Biology and Society Lab (1), taken two times

Electives or Research (21 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)

BIO 599 Thesis (6)

Additional Curriculum Information

The open electives or research section allows an individual student program to be developed in consultation with the student's advisor and committee.

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 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.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. academic record form
4. personal statement
5. curriculum vitae or resume
6. writing sample
7. three letters of recommendation
8. 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.

Students are expected to have completed the equivalent of core requirements for an undergraduate major in biology or a related discipline (typically evolution, genetics and other courses appropriate to the student's particular interests). Students without an undergraduate-level competency in the sciences may be considered for conditional admission to the biology and society concentration.

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:

- Able to articulate an understanding of current literature on scientific developments and their relevance to society in scholarly writing.
- Able to contribute to original biology and society research in scholarly writing.
- Able to communicate biology and society research results in presentations.

Career opportunities

Those who have earned a Master of Science in biology with a concentration in biology and society are prepared for academic careers. Their skills and knowledge are also valuable for government careers in federal and state agencies responsible for management and conservation and for careers in industry and nongovernmental organizations.

Career examples include:

- food, agriculture and health care scientists in academic, private and industrial labs
- instructors at community colleges and research universities
- researchers and policy developers in government labs and nonprofit organizations
- science teachers in elementary and high schools
- wildlife, animal and conservation scientists

Contact information

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