Plant Biology and Conservation, MS

LAPLBIOMS

Plants are fundamental to life on Earth. Conducted jointly by ASU and the Desert Botanical Garden, this program nurtures future plant and environmental biologists by equipping them with quantitative skills and human dimensions in dealing with global climate change, food insecurity and loss of biodiversity.

Program description

Degree awarded: MS Plant Biology and Conservation
The MS program in plant biology and conservation provides students with advanced training in plant molecular and cellular biology, biotechnology, functional genomics, paleobotany, ecology, evolution and floristics, as well as in theory and practice of conservation biology.

Students have the opportunity to work with faculty and researchers from ASU and the Desert Botanical Garden, located in Phoenix near ASU's Tempe campus.

At a glance

- **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe

Degree requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis

Required Core (3 credit hours)
PLB 502 Perspectives in Plant Biology (3)

Research (3 credit hours)
PLB 592 Research (3)

Electives (17 credit hours)

Other Requirements (1 credit hour)
BIO 591 Seminar (1)

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)
PLB 599 Thesis (6)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students should see the academic unit for a complete list of approved electives.

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 biology, botany or a closely related field 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 admission 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:

- Able to review the literature relevant to a research question in plant biology and conservation.
- Able to execute a research plan of their own design to address a scientific question about plant biology and conservation.
- Able to communicate research findings clearly and accurately in oral presentations and in writing to the scientific community and to the public.

Career opportunities

The conservation field demonstrates a growing need for botanists and conservation biologists in academic institutions; agricultural, biotechnological and landscape companies; government agencies; and nongovernmental organizations.

A master's degree in plant biology and conservation provides strong preparation for academic careers. The skills and knowledge obtained in this program 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:

- conservation scientists at parks and natural resource centers, museums and national forests
- food and agriculture scientists in academic, private and industrial labs
- instructors at community colleges
- researchers and technicians in government labs and nonprofit organizations
- science teachers in elementary and high schools

Contact information

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