

Biological Sciences, MS

Program Requirements

General requirements of the Graduate School under Plan I, Plan II, or Plan III must be satisfied.

Plan I – Master of Science with Thesis

Students will complete coursework (24 credit hours) and perform original research (a minimum of 6 thesis research credit hours) that will be described in their research thesis under the direction of a research advisor. There are no required courses in the Plan I track. The program of study (i.e., coursework) will be developed with your research advisor to meet your education and specific career goals. Students will prepare and defend a thesis proposal within their first year in the graduate program. Students will complete a written thesis then an open seminar followed by defense to their committee typically by the end of their second year in the graduate program.

Plan II – Master of Science without Thesis

Students will complete an approved program of coursework (minimum of 33 credit hours), complete a written proposal and write a Master's report under the direction of an advisor. There are no required courses in the Plan II track. The report is usually in the form of a literature review or survey about a topic agreed upon with the advisor. The presentation is not open to the UAH community, but presented only to a supervisory committee.

Plan III – Master of Science with Education (Two Programs Available)

- 1. Traditional Program** - Students with existing Alabama Class B certification will complete an approved program of coursework without specialization in the Department of Biological Sciences (24 credit hours) and in the College of Education (12 credit hours), complete a written comprehensive final examination, and write and present a Master's report under the direction of an advisor. There are no required courses in this Plan III track. The report is usually in the form of a literature review or survey about a topic agreed upon with the advisor. The presentation is not open to the UAH community, but only presented to a supervisory committee. The written examination is comprehensive in nature with questions based on coursework taken in the graduate program. Graduates will be recommended for Alabama Class A teaching certification.
- 2. Nontraditional Fifth Year Program** - Students with an accredited baccalaureate degree other than teacher education seeking initial certification (those that do not have a Class B – baccalaureate level teaching certification) will complete coursework in the Department of Biological Sciences (24 credit hours) and in the College of Education (27 hours, including an internship), complete a written comprehensive final examination, and write and present a Master's report under the direction of an advisor. There are no required courses in this Plan III track. The report is usually in the form of a literature review or survey about a topic agreed upon with the advisor. The presentation is not open to the UAH community, but only presented to a supervisory committee. The written examination is comprehensive in nature with questions based on coursework taken in the graduate program. Students will also be required to take a one-hour course, "Introduction to Education," prior to admission to the Teacher Education Program. Graduates will be recommended for Alabama Class A teaching certification.