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 six 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.