Faculty in the Department of Biology consistently have been recognized with the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Research, Teaching and Service, the most prestigious awards offered by Texas State University.

The Department of Biology at Texas State University is a large, multidisciplinary department with many strong, well-funded research programs. Students and faculty have access to modern facilities with up-to-date instrumentation and resources, including DNA sequencers, an integrated microscopy unit, high-speed digital networks and computing centers, a GIS lab, greenhouses, wet labs, and extensive plant, animal and paleobotanical collections.

Housed in the Jerome and Cathy Supple Science Building and the Freeman Aquatic Biology Building, the Biology Department also has access to many field sites in Central Texas and is responsible for ensuring the scientific integrity of the San Marcos River headwaters. Collaboration in research between field-oriented and laboratory-oriented scientists is strongly encouraged.

Educational and research opportunities for graduate students are available in many different areas of specialization, including aquatic biology, conservation biology, behavioral ecology, population biology and genetics, cell and molecular biology, microbiology, plant biology, science education and wildlife ecology.
Course Work
The Department of Biology offers several degree options for students pursuing graduate study at the master’s level: the master of science (thesis or non-thesis) or the master of arts (thesis-based).

Students who choose thesis-requiring degrees are usually preparing for professional careers or advanced graduate work. Students seeking advanced training for technology-related industries also pursue thesis-requiring degrees. Students who choose non-thesis degrees often may prefer broad training in biology without a formal research experience. Secondary science teachers wishing to broaden their content training often choose this plan.

Master of Science
This degree requires a minimum of 30 semester hours including the thesis.

Master of Arts
This degree has the same requirements as the master of science, except it permits substitution of non-science course work for students earning a graduate minor outside the College of Science.

Non-thesis Master of Science
This degree requires a minimum of 45 semester hours, including at least one semester of a supervised research course.

Admission Policy
Applicants to any of the master’s programs in biology should have bachelor’s degrees from a regionally accredited university in biology or a related discipline with a comparable program of course work.

The Department of Biology requires that a student have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on the last 60 undergraduate semester hours taken before receipt of the bachelor’s degree. Students with GPAs below 3.0 may petition the department for conditional admission.

Applicants must submit the following to the Graduate College:
- the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- one official transcript from each college or university attended
- official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores. See www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/bio.html for details about GRE requirements.
- current curriculum vitae
- statement of purpose that describes the applicant’s professional aspirations and rationale for pursuing graduate study in biology
- three letters of recommendation that address the substance and quality of the applicant’s preparation for graduate study
- an Intent-to-Mentor letter from a Texas State Biology Department faculty member is required for all thesis-based degrees. In this letter, the faculty member must agree to serve as the student’s initial thesis advisor.

A current listing of faculty and their research interests, contact information for the both graduate advisors and faculty members, and details on the various master’s programs offered by the department can be found at www.bio.txstate.edu.

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application, where to send application documents and additional details. Priority consideration for fall admission, as well as for Graduate College fellowships and scholarships, will be given to applications received by February 1. Otherwise, applications are due by June 15 for the fall semester, by October 15 for the spring semester, and by April 15 for the summer semester.

Financial Assistance
Assistantships and scholarships are available to qualified applicants on a competitive basis. The Department of Biology offers a limited number of graduate instructional assistantships to full-time students enrolled in the master’s program. These assistantships are renewable based on an annual review of each student’s progress and performance. Faculty members may also have funds available to support students as research assistants.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit the Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

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