Objective 1.1: Students will be familiar with the appropriate set of research, laboratory and/or field skills used by specialists in their subfields of choice.

Goal 2: Students will be able to understand and critique articles from the primary literature in biology. They will improve their skills in communicating about science, particularly about biology, including data presentation, writing, and oral communication appropriately targeted to various audiences.

Objective 2.1: Students will be able to locate, read, interpret, evaluate and discuss primary literature in Biology.

Objective 2.2: Students will be able to analyze, interpret and present data of various kinds.

Objective 2.3: Students will design, execute and communicate results of research. (For M.A. students, this will take the form of projects completed for courses. M.S. students will complete a traditional thesis that includes a public defense and a written report.)

Goal 3: Students will develop skills in experimental design, data collection and analysis.

Objective 3.1: Students will be able to analyze, interpret and present data of various kinds.

Objective 3.2: Students will design, execute and communicate results of research. (For M.A. students, this will take the form of projects completed for courses. M.S. students will complete a traditional thesis that includes a public defense and a written report.)

Goal 4: Students will have a deeper and more sophisticated understanding of one or more of the subfields of biology, and they will develop the appropriate set of research, laboratory and/or field skills necessary for specialization in the subfields.

Objective 4.1: Students will increase their knowledge and understanding of one or more of the subfields of biology through assignments in courses and research experiences in courses and/or independent study.

Objective 4.2: Students will be familiar with the appropriate set of research, laboratory and/or field skills used by specialists in their subfields of choice.

Course Requirements

Degree candidates for the Master of Arts Degree in Biology will be required to complete 32 credit hours of graduate study in biology. A minimum of two semesters of Graduate Seminar BIO 552 must be taken, with a maximum of 4 credit hours counting toward the degree. Students must take Research Techniques BIO 550 and at least one each from two of the three broad categories of Evolution and Diversity, Cell Structure and Function, and Systemic Organization.

Other specific requirements

1. Successful completion of all requirements must be accomplished within a maximum of 5 years from the time of acceptance to the program.

2. All of the requirements described in this document represent minimum requirements, and it is understood that the Graduate Committee may require additional work to make up for deficiencies in the student’s background. Any exceptions to requirements must be approved by the graduate director.