Objective 2.1: Students will be able to design an experiment, operate basic laboratory equipment, reduce and present data that includes the interpretation of statistical tests.

Objective 2.2: Students will be able to develop cogent written and oral presentations of scientific content.

Objective 2.3: Students will be able to locate, read, interpret, evaluate, and discuss primary literature in biology.

Course Requirements
Degree candidates for the Master of Science degree in Biology must be full-time students and will be required to complete 30 credit hours of graduate study in biology. All M.S. candidates will be required to complete 24 credit hours of formal classroom study and 6 credit hours of thesis research (BIO 794). The 24 credit hours of formal classroom study must include Research Techniques (BIO 550 and BIO 550L) and graduate level courses (500-700 level), which may include up to 4 credit hours of Graduate Seminar (BIO 552) and 8 credit hours of research (BIO 793). Graduate Seminar is required during each semester of enrollment.

Thesis Requirements
Degree candidates for the Master of Science Degree in Biology will be required to complete a research problem in their area of specialization and to publish their findings in thesis form. A Thesis Committee will be formed to follow the progress of the candidate, evaluate the final thesis and administer a final oral examination based on the thesis research. The Thesis Committee will consist of three faculty members, and be chaired by the candidate’s research mentor. The thesis must be acceptable in both scholarship and literary quality. Both a public presentation of the thesis work and a private defense of the thesis are required. To be recommended for the Master of Science degree in Biology, the candidate must receive approval of the majority of the committee members. Not later than three weeks prior to the commencement at which the degree is to be conferred, two copies of the completed thesis suitable for binding and bearing approval of the Thesis Committee must be deposited in the Department of Biology office. The cost of preparation, reproduction, and binding of the thesis is the responsibility of the candidate.

Other Specific Requirements
1. The candidate for the M.S. Degree in Biology is required to graduate with a grade point average of at least 3.0.
2. Successful completion of all requirements must be accomplished within a maximum of 5 years from the time of acceptance to the program.
3. All of the requirements described in this document represent minimum requirements, and it is understood that the Thesis Committee may require additional work to make up for deficiencies in the student’s background. Any exceptions to requirements must be approved by the thesis mentor and the graduate director.

Financial Support
Full-time M.S. students may be eligible for financial support in the form of tuition scholarship. To be considered for this scholarship, applications must be received no later than March 1st. Stipends, in the form of teaching assistantships, may be available for M.S. and M.A. students. Other teaching opportunities may be available to both M.A. and M.S. candidates.