

Microbiology PhD

*90 total credit hours. At least 22.5 hours from core program course work and electives. 6 credit minor. Remaining credits earned through M800 Research.

[UGS Official Biology Graduate Bulletin](#)

*Please note that you must always be registered in a minimum of 6 to a maximum of 12 credits in each fall and spring semester. Summer enrollment is only required if graduating in the summer.

*This document will serve as a guide. Your path may be slightly different based on your circumstances! Please reach out to your Program Director and Graduate Advisor if you have any questions.

Year 1

Fall semester – 12 credits

- BIOL-L523 Critical Analysis of Scientific Literature (1.5 cr)
- BIOL-M500 Intro to Research (rotations) (3.0 cr)
- *BIOL-M585 Microbial Genetics and Pathogenesis (3.0 cr)
- Elective Advanced Course work - Z620, one or more biochemistry course, one or more bioinformatics courses, or other relevant coursework (0 – 4.5 credits)
 - BIOL-M550 Microbiology [Intro Bacteriology] (3.0 cr) is suggested if you have interest or lack background
- BIOL-M800 Research (any remaining credits to get to 12 total)

Spring semester – 12 credits

- *BIOL-M511 Molecular Biology of Prokaryotes (3.0 cr)
- *BIOL-M541 Virology and Host Responses (3.0 cr)
- Remaining credits this semester should be Z620's or other electives and/or minor courses and/or M800 Research
 - BIOL-M430 Virology Lecture (3 cr.) is suggested if virology interest or lack background

**only one of these (M585, M511, M541) is required for the major. Many students will take 2 or 3 to prepare for prelims.*

To Do: At end of 1st year- form **Advisory Committee**. Committee must be formed and eDoc submitted **before** August of this year.

- [General Requirements for PhD Advisory Committee](#)
- [Advisory Committee for the PhD eDoc](#)
- [Change of Advisory Committee eDoc \(if you need to add or remove members at any time\)](#)

Year 2

Fall Semester – 12 credits

- BIOL-L500 Independent study (3.0 cr)
- Remaining credits this semester should be Z620's or other electives and/or minor courses and/or M800 Research

To Do: Hold first committee meeting this semester
Receive paper list for Prelim Part I

Spring Semester – 12 credits

- BIOL-Z620 Grant Writing (1.5 cr)
- BIOL-L 524 Ethics and Career Development (1.5 cr)
- Remaining credits this semester should be Z620's or other electives and/or minor courses and/or M800 Research

To Do: Prelims Part I

*Prelims Part II during Summer or in first two weeks of year 3 fall semester. The qualifying exams must be passed **at least eight months before graduation***

Year 3

Fall Semester – 12 credits

- Credits this semester should be Z620's or other electives and/or minor courses and/or M800 Research

Spring Semester – 12 credits

- Credits this semester should be Z620's or other electives and/or minor courses and/or M800 Research

>All course work completed<

To Do: *At the end of this semester, if you have completed all coursework for your major and minor and passed your prelim exams, submit your Nomination to Candidacy eDoc. **This form takes several months to approve, and is an important milestone on your way to graduation. Submit this eDoc as soon as possible!***

- [General Requirements for Admission to PhD Candidacy](#)
- [Nomination to Candidacy for the Ph.D. Degree Application eDoc](#)

Year 4

Fall Semester – 12 credits

- BIOL-M800 Research (12 cr)

To Do: *Once your candidacy has been approved by the University Graduate School, submit your Nomination of Research Committee eDoc. Due by the end of spring semester. **This eDoc must be approved by the University Graduate School at least six months before you defend your dissertation.***

- [General Requirements for Dissertation Research Committee](#)
- [Nomination of Research Committee eDoc](#)

Spring semester – 6 credits

- BIOL-M800 Research (6 cr)

Year 5+

- At this point you will most likely have completed 90 credit hours. If you have completed 90 credits and your PhD Candidacy has been approved by the University Graduate School, you may register for [BIOL-G901 Advanced Research](#) each semester.
- You are allowed 6 semesters of G901 enrollment. G901 enrollment allows you to pay just a \$150 advanced research fee per semester instead of the normal \$700+ mandatory fees.

Dissertation Defense and Graduation

- Your graduation can happen in any month, and is based on your research and writing completion, and your committee's approval.
- When you're ready, and all other eDocs have been completed, submit your PhD [defense announcement](#). **This announcement must be approved by UGS at least 30 days prior to your defense.** To allow time for processing, please submit this no later than **45 days before your defense date**. Your announcement will go to your department graduate office for approval, and then to your research chair for approval, and finally to the University Graduate School for processing.
 - If you plan to defend and graduate in the summer, you must register for summer G901 credits. These credits require special administrative permission, so let your Graduate Advisor know.
- After your defense submit the [Defense Signature](#) eDoc for committee approval.
- Follow the UGS guidelines for dissertation [formatting requirements](#), [submission methods](#), and [deadlines](#).

Congrats on completing your PhD!

Other Helpful websites:

[College of Arts and Sciences- Information for Graduate Students](#)

[University Graduate School- Timeline for Graduation](#)

[University Graduate School Bulletin- Biology](#)

[Dissertation and Thesis Resources – Biology](#)

[Graduate Student Portal, Biology](#)