**Thesis Option**

A minimum of 30 hours of coursework in Biological Sciences is required. Courses taken in any department other than BIO will not be counted toward a student’s degree. Students must take a minimum of 6 hours of research (BIO 5900) and 3 hours of Thesis (BIO 5950). Alternatively, students can take a minimum of 3 hours of research (BIO 5900) and 6 hours of Thesis (BIO 5950). Please note that students can take more hours of BIO 5900 and BIO 5950 than stated above for various reasons (for example, to maintain full-time student status), however only a total of 9 hours (BIO 5900 + BIO 5950) will be counted toward the degree. One Graduate Seminar course (BIO 5150) is required. However, students are allowed to take a maximum of 2 Graduate Seminars. Students are allowed to take no more than 12 hours of courses in BIO 4750-4999. Credits earned from the following courses will not be counted: BIO 5990, BIO 5980, BIO 5970, any course numbered less than 4750, and courses taken in departments other than BIO. All students are required to successfully complete an oral comprehensive examination prior to the completion of the graduate degree.

**Non-Thesis Option**

A minimum of 32 hours of total coursework is required, of which at least 22 hours should be with BIO course prefix. A maximum of 10 hours may be earned from courses numbered 5000+ offered only in Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Sociology, and Geographic Information Sciences (GIS). However, students can take all 32 hours in BIO, and none from other departments. Any coursework from departments other than those listed above will not be counted towards the degree. Students are allowed to take no more than 12 hours of courses in BIO 4750-4999. One Graduate Seminar course (BIO 5150) is required. However, students are allowed to take a maximum of 2 Graduate Seminars. Credits earned from BIO 5900, BIO 5950, and BIO 5980 will not be counted toward the degree.

**Internship Option**

Please contact the Graduate Coordinator if you are interested in pursuing the Internship option to devise a study plan.