DREXEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Biological Sciences (MS, PhD)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Drexel University Department of Biology offers programs designed to provide a solid foundation in professional education, encompassing both factual and theoretical concepts, as well as essential research skills. Students are encouraged to engage in coursework, seminars, research, and discussions, fostering a vibrant intellectual community.

The Department is home to a dynamic group of researchers who are leaders in the fields of cell and molecular biology, biochemistry, genomics and more. Graduate students are intimately involved in department activities and receive individualized attention and mentorship when working alongside faculty, in accordance with one of the most important parts of the department's mission.

DEGREE CONCENTRATIONS

Students in the Biological Sciences graduate programs have opportunities to tailor their curricula to focus on several areas of focus such as:

- BIOCHEMISTRY
- CELL BIOLOGY
- CONSERVATION
- DEVELOPMENT & AGING
- ECOLOGY
- EPIGENETICS
- EVOLUTION
- GENETICS
- STEM CELL BIOLOGY

COURSE OFFERINGS

Key courses in the graduate programs include:

- ADVANCED CELL BIOLOGY
- POPULATION GENETICS
- BIOINFORMATICS
- DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
- BIOCHEMISTRY
- GENOMICS

CAREERS

Graduates of Drexel's Biological Sciences programs have gone on to successful careers in academia, governmental agencies, and the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. Employers include leading research institutions and companies in the life sciences sector.

GRADUATE ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

The Biology Graduate Student Association (BGSA) is one of the most active graduate student organizations on campus. It provides a forum for information exchange and fosters a strong social environment. Students can also participate in departmental seminars, conferences, and other academic events.

MS PROGRAM

THESIS OPTIONS: Students in the MS program have the option of selecting to complete their degrees with or without a thesis. The **THESIS OPTION** is for students interested in advanced graduate coursework and experience in completing an original research project, the findings of which should be publishable in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. The **NON-THESIS OPTION** is a coursework-based degree for those looking to advance in their field, but not desiring direct research experience.

GRADUATE CO-OP: As a leader in experiential education, Drexel enhances graduate MS Biological Sciences student training with its optional co-op. This program offers students a unique opportunity to earn valuable professional experience at top-rated companies that counts toward their Master's plan of study. The extensive networks developed by the Steinbright Career Development Center, the Department of Biology and area companies provide a wealth of opportunities for co-op employment in Philadelphia and beyond.

PHD CANDIDACY & DISSERTATION

All PhD students are required to pass a candidacy exam. Upon successful completion, students will devote their efforts to completion of an original research project and dissertation, the results of which are expected to be published in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

As part of the buildup to candidacy, PhD students may undertake at least two, and up to three, rotations in their first year to help them select an area of research focus and identify a faculty mentor.

FINANCIAL AID

Information about scholarships and aid is available on our program website. Several different funding options are available which may include merit aid, discounts, and assistantships. Training in pedagogy and instruction is core to the mission of doctoral education and so PhD students are required to perform significant teaching duties while pursuing their degree. Typically, PhD students are supported for their first two years on a teaching fellowship (TF), and depending on funding in their particular lab, move onto a research fellowship (RF) during the final years of their program.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

We accept new students each Fall. While we review applications on a rolling basis beginning in January, we recommend students submit applications by the following dates:

- **PHD:** December 1
- **MS:** May 1 (International), September 1 (Domestic)

CONTACT
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