

Graduate Programs in Biology at the School of Science and Engineering, UMKC

M.A. in Biology

The School of Biological Sciences offers a Master of Arts in Biology. This is a 1-year program (June to May or September to July) that provides additional post-baccalaureate coursework and experiences to prepare students to successfully compete for admission into medical, osteopathic, dental, pharmacy, and veterinary programs.

MA BIOL graduate acceptance rate into their professional program of choice = 80%

To apply go to <https://www.umkc.edu/admissions/apply/graduate-professional-application-process.html>, and click on the Apply Now button in the middle of the page. Completed applications must be received by May 1 for Summer start and by July 15 for Fall start.

Requirements for applying to the M.A. Biology degree program:

- A baccalaureate degree in Biology or Chemistry (preferred).
- **Completion of required pre-requisite courses: General Biology 1 and 2, General Chem. 1 and 2, Organic Chem. 1 and 2**
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Three letters of recommendation from those familiar with the student's academic and intellectual capabilities. Letters must be written on letterhead and include a signature.
- A statement of purpose that addresses the following: 1) your motivation to seek a career in the health professions; 2) experiences that have informed your perspective about a healthcare career; 3) unique hardships, challenges or obstacles that may have influenced your educational pursuits; 4) how the MA Biology program will help you achieve your long-term goals; and 5) other information you feel is relevant to your long-term career goals.
- A current C.V.

M.A. Biology Curriculum (30 cr. hr.):

1 cr. hr. BIOL 5511, Professional Development
4 cr. hr. BIOL 5510/BIOL 5510L, Gross Anatomy and Lab
4 cr. hr. PHARM 7049, Professional Biochemistry
4 cr. hr. BIOL 5399, Human Physiology I
4 cr. hr. BOL 5400, Human Physiology II
4 cr. hr. BIOL 5592, MA Topics
9 cr. hr. Elective courses

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The following rules apply to students who are pursuing the M.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology:

1. No more than two C grades or one C and one D grade will be permitted in graduate courses. This includes all required and elected courses listed above. If a master's student exceeds these limits, he or she will be dropped from the program.
2. A C- grade will count in your GPA but cannot be used toward graduation. The course will either need to be repeated or the graduation requirements must be met by a different course.
3. If a student receives a D in a course, he/she must repeat that course and obtain a grade of C or higher. No more than one D grade will be permitted.
4. No F grades are permitted. Any student who receives an F grade will be dropped from the master's program.
5. To graduate, students must have a 3.0 overall grade point average. Campus regulations regarding graduate student probation should be consulted.
6. A limited number of appropriate undergraduate science courses may be counted toward master's degrees in the Division of Biological & Biomedical Systems. These must be approved by the Biology Graduate Advisor. The minimum acceptable grade required for inclusion in an undergraduate course in a Program of Study is B (2.7 grade points).
7. Students must consult the UMKC catalog so they are familiar with Campus-wide and University-wide regulations pertaining to them.

Financial Assistance:

The School of Biological Sciences does not guarantee financial support for M.A. students. There may be opportunities for teaching assistantships for the undergraduate labs, allowing students to earn \$2400 - \$3600 per semester. In addition, there is a BS-MA option for accepted UMKC graduates who continue directly on to the MA after completing their undergraduate degree.

Other questions? Contact:

Dr. Karyn Turla; Teaching Professor

MA Biology Graduate Program Coordinator, Email: turlak@umkc.edu