NDSU now offers an Accelerated Bachelor and Master of Science program for majors in the Department of Biological Sciences. The program allows students to begin thesis research during their junior year and simultaneously pursue their Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in biological sciences. Students will work closely with a faculty member in biological sciences who will serve as a mentor. The program is designed to produce a research-based master’s degree.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students apply to the Department of Biological Sciences during the fall of junior year. Applications are due to the department by Oct. 1.

Applications include:

- Application form
- Statement of Intent
- Three recommendation letters
- Signatures of one to three potential faculty research mentors

Applicants who have met eligibility criteria and successfully identified a research mentor will be interviewed by a panel of biological sciences faculty. If the department recommends admission to the program, students will submit an application to the NDSU Graduate School.

To be eligible, students must have:

- 65 credits earned or in progress (30 at NDSU)
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5
- Completed the following:
  - General Biology I and Lab (BIOL 150/L)
  - General Biology II and Lab (BIOL 151/L)
  - Genetics and Lab (BOT/BIOL/ZOO 315/L)
  - Authentic Research Experience Lab (such as Antibiotic Discovery BIOL 270)
- Identified at least three potential faculty research mentors

PLAN OF STUDY

Students are admitted to the program spring semester of junior year and submit a Plan of Study that includes degree requirements for both their bachelor’s and master’s programs.

The department offers 20 three- or four-credit courses at the 400/600-level, all of which can contribute to the accelerated program. A Research Principles Seminar (BIOL 391) will be offered during spring semester for students accepted to the accelerated program.

During their fourth year (96 credits earned), students may enroll in BOT/BIOL/ZOO 400/600-level courses, and may use 15 of those credits toward the 122 required credits for their bachelor’s degree. Students must maintain a B minimum in each of the 400/600-level courses to remain in the program.
### Fall Semester Credits | Spring Semester Credits
---|---
**Year 1**
BIOL 150 +L | BIOL 151 +L
CHEM 121 + L | CHEM 122 + L
MATH 146 | STAT 330
ENGL 110 | ENGL 120
UNIV 189 | COMM 110
| 16 | 17

**Year 2**
BIOL 315 +L | Authentic Research Lab (BIOL 270)
Organic Chem (CHEM 341/L or 240) | Organic Chem (CHEM 342/L) or PHYS 120
Gen Ed | Gen Ed
Gen Ed | Gen Ed
Wellness | Cell Biology (ZOO 370) or
| 16-17 | 16-17

**Year 3**
• Matriculate into program spring semester
• Establish Supervisory Committee
• Submit Plan of Study for spring semester
• Initiate thesis research
• Submit research proposal to department spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHYS 211 +L or Elective</th>
<th>PHYS 212 +L or Elective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 359</td>
<td>Bot/Biol/Zoo Elective 300-400 level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Principles (BIOL 391)</td>
<td>Bot/Biol/Zoo Elective 400 level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 324</td>
<td>Humanities or Social Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Biology (ZOO 370) or</td>
<td>Bot/Biol/Zoo Elective 400 level</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Ecology (BIOL 364)</td>
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| 16-17 | 15-16

**Year 4**
• All 400/600 level BOT/BIOL/ZOO courses completed at the 600 level

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<tr>
<th>Bot/Biol/Zoo Elective 600 level</th>
<th>Bot/Biol/Zoo Elective 600 level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*contributes to BS</td>
<td>*contributes to BS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bot/Biol/Zoo Elective 600 level</td>
<td>Bot/Biol/Zoo Elective 600 level</td>
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<tr>
<td>*contributes to BS</td>
<td>*contributes to BS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts/Humanities or Social Science</td>
<td>Research credits (BIOL 798)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research credits (BIOL 798)</td>
<td>Capstone Seminar (Bot/Biol/Zoo 491)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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</table>
| 9 BS / 6 MS | 8 BS / 7 MS

**Year 5**
• Full-standing Master’s student
• Thesis due at the end of the spring semester

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<tr>
<th>Scientific Integrity (UNIV 720)</th>
<th>Bot/Biol/Zoo 790</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Credits (BIOL 798)</td>
<td>Research Credits (BIOL 798)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bot/Biol/Zoo Elective 600 level</td>
<td>*contributes to BS</td>
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<tr>
<td>*contributes to BS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 10 MS | 7 MS

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