

An Introduction to Graduate Programs within the Quantitative Biology and Bioinformatics (QBB) Subprogram

SoLS Research Faculty Affiliated with the Quantitative Biology and Bioinformatics (QBB) Graduate Subprogram

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Required Courses for All Degrees

- **Biol 701**—*Ethics in Scientific Research* (1 credit).
Required class for all students in both degree programs.
- **Biol 790**—*Research Colloquium in Life Sciences*
Students may take this course for credit (1-2 credits/semester for a maximum of 9 credits toward the degree), but all students (including non-enrolled) must participate each semester.

Core Courses for MS and PhD

MS and PhD students must take at least **TWO** of the following Core Classes:

- **BIOL 611** – *Molecular Evolution* (3 credits)
- **BIOL 616** – *Bioinformatics* (3 credits)
- **BIOL 625** – *Genomics* (3 credits)
- **BIOL 628** – *Biometry* (3 credits)
- **BIOL 680** – *Introduction to Biological Modeling* (3 credits)
- **BIOL 714** – *Population Genetics* (3 credits)

Elective Courses for MS and PhD

- MS students must take **ONE** of 600-level or 700-level didactic courses in SoLS or other departments.
- PhD Students must take **FOUR** of 600-level or 700-level didactic courses in SoLS or other departments.
- The courses may come from, but are not limited to, the following Elective Course Lists.

Note:

- Core courses (above) that are not being used to satisfy Core Requirements may be taken as Electives.
- Elective courses must be approved in advance by the student's Research Advisory Committee.
- The Research Advisory Committee may require the student to take specific courses, depending on the person's academic background and research objectives.

Elective Course Lists

- *Any 600-level or 700-level didactic courses in SoLS*
- **STAT 691** — *Statistics for Scientists I* (3 credits)

- **STAT 692** — *Statistics for Scientists II* (3 credits)
- **ME 616** — *Intro. To Biomech. Engr.* (3 credits)
- **ME 710** — *Transp. Phenom. Bioengr.* (3 credits)
- **CS 617** — *Intr. Comp. Simulation* (3 credits)
- **CS 677** — *Analysis of Algorithms* (3 credits)
- **CS 689** — *Introduction to Machine Learning* (3 credits)
- **CS 717** — *Adv. Comp. Simulation* (3 credits)
- **EAB 703** — *Biostat. Meth. Life Sci.* (3 credits)
- **EAB 795** — *Special Topics Int. Biostat* (3 credits)

Research Courses

- MS students must complete **18 credits** of 700-level courses.
- PhD students must complete **24 credits** of 700-level credits (excluding Biol 799).

The following “research based” classes may be used to satisfy 700-level requirements.

- **Biol 789**—*Independent Graduate Study in Life Sciences* (1-3 credits/semester; may be repeated for a max. of 9 credits).
- **Biol 790**—*Research Colloquium in Life Sciences* (1-2 credits/semester; repeated for a maximum of 9 credits).
- **Biol 791**—*Research Laboratory Discussion in Life Sciences* (1-2 credits/semester; may be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits toward the degree). Can be taken to receive credit for participating in Mentor’s lab meeting.

Seminar Requirements

- MS students must complete **4 credits** from the following courses.
- PhD students must complete **6 credits** from the following courses.
- Students may take these courses for credit (1-2 credits/semester for a maximum of 9 credits toward the degree).
 - **BIOL 714** - *Topics in Population and Evolutionary Genetics*
 - **BIOL 781** - *Topics in Population and Evolutionary Ecology*
 - **BIOL 783** - *Topics in Community and Ecosystem Ecology*
 - **BIOL 784** - *Topics in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology*
 - **BIOL 793** - *Advanced Topics in Life Sciences*
 - **BIOL 796** - *Graduate Seminar*

Graduate Program Policies: All Students

- The online Graduate Catalog *and* the SoLS Graduate Handbook that was available at the time of matriculation will be the source for the enforced graduate policies for each student.
- All students must form a Research Advisory Committee within the first semester after matriculation.
- All students must meet with his/her Research Advisory Committee at least once during the calendar year and submit a written report to the GOC.
- **Note:** A more thorough description of Graduate Program Policies is provided in the SoLS Graduate Programs Handbook.

MS Students

1. MS students must form a Research Advisory Committee consisting of at least **four** experts in their field of study. A typical committee consists of:
 - Primary Research Mentor & Academic Chair (Note: these are not always the same person¹)
 - Two SoLS Graduate Faculty (Should include the SoLS Academic Chair if the Primary Research Mentor’s primary appointment is not in SoLS)

¹ for clarification of these terms, see SoLS Graduate Programs Handbook

- Graduate College Representative who has official grad faculty status within another academic unit on campus
2. MS students must complete a minimum of **30 credit hours** beyond the baccalaureate degree.
 - Credits for the MS degree will be obtained from didactic classes at the 600 and 700 level.
 - MS students must take **Biol 701**— Ethics in Scientific Research (**1 credit**) during their first semester in the program and either attend the Ethics components of Biol 702 or complete UNLV RCR training.
 - MS students must take at least **4 credits** of **Biol 796**—*Graduate Seminar* or **Biol 793**—*Advanced Topics* or *BIOL 714 - Topics in Population and Evolutionary Genetics* or *BIOL 781 - Topics in Population and Evolutionary Ecology* or *BIOL 783 - Topics in Community and Ecosystem Ecology* or *BIOL 784 - Topics in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology*. Students may enroll for more credit (up to 9 credits can count toward the degree).
 - MS students must take **6 credits** of **Biol 797: Thesis**. Students can enroll for more credits of Biol 797, but only 6 will count toward the degree.
 - MS students must participate in **Biol 790: Research Colloquium in Life Sciences**. Students not enrolled must also participate each semester.
 3. The student’s Research Advisory Committee will determine the course of action and coursework for each individual MS student.
 4. The MS within SoLS is a Research Degree. Many credits will be earned in “research-orientated” courses that include summer work.
 5. Students must complete a written thesis and publicly defend their work.

Typical Timeline for the MS Degree

Enroll in a minimum of 6 credits each semester to fulfill course and research requirements.

Year 1:

- Ethics (1 credit)
- Seminars (2 credits)
- Colloquium (3 credits)
- Two didactic courses (6 credits)
- Research credits (3 credits)
- Spend full time in the laboratory or field over summer.

Year 2:

- Seminars (2 credits)
- Colloquium (2 credits)
- One didactic course (3 credits)
- Research credits (2 credits)
- Thesis credits (6 credits)
- Write and defend Thesis

Sample Program of Study: MS Student

Courses	Credits
3 didactic courses at the 600- or 700-level	9
Biol 701—Ethics in Scientific Research	1
Biol 796—Graduate Seminars	6
Biol 789—Independent Study (Pre-thesis)	3
Biol 790—Research Colloquium	2
Biol 791—Research Lab. Discussions	3
Biol 797—Thesis	6
TOTAL	30

PhD Students

1. PhD students must form a Research Advisory Committee consisting of at least **five** experts in their field of study. A typical committee consists of:

- Primary Research Mentor & Academic Chair (Note: these are not always the same person²)
 - Two or three SoLS Graduate Faculty (Should include the SoLS Academic Chair if the Primary Research Mentor's primary appointment is not in SoLS)
 - Graduate College Representative who has official grad faculty status within another academic unit on campus
 - Outside University Member, who must be granted conditional Grad Faculty status
2. Doctoral students are required to complete a minimum of **60 credit hours** of graduate work.
 - Credits for the PhD degree will be obtained from classes at the 600 and 700 level.
 - PhD students must enroll in **Biol 701—Ethics in Scientific Research** (1 credit) during their first semester in the program and either attend the Ethics components of Biol 702 or complete UNLV RCR training.
 - PhD students are required/highly recommended to take **Biol 702—Biology Graduate Core (3 credits)** during their first semester in the program (waivers granted on an *ad hoc* basis from SoLS Grad Coordinator).
 - PhD students must take at least **6 credits** of **Biol 796—Graduate Seminar** or **Biol 793—Advanced Topics** or *BIOL 714 - Topics in Population and Evolutionary Genetics* or *BIOL 781 - Topics in Population and Evolutionary Ecology* or *BIOL 783 - Topics in Community and Ecosystem Ecology* or *BIOL 784 - Topics in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology*. Students may enroll for more credit (up to 9 credits can count toward the degree).
 - PhD students must participate in **Biol 790—Research Colloquium in Life Sciences** each semester even if they are not enrolled in the class for credit.
 - PhD students are required to take **12 credits** of **Biol 799—Dissertation**. Students may enroll for more credits of Biol 799, but no more than 18 will count toward the degree.
 3. The student's Research Advisory Committee will determine the course of action and coursework for each individual PhD student.
 4. All PhD students are required to instruct **two** lab or discussion sections of a UNLV biology class.
 5. All PhD students must pass a comprehensive exam before being admitted to candidacy. PhD students are required to take this exam prior to the beginning of the sixth semester in their graduate program, typically this occurs in the 4th or 5th semesters. The comprehensive exam is administered by the student's Research Advisory Committee. The exam consists of a **written portion** in the form of a proposal or a set of detailed written responses to comprehensive questions and an **oral defense** of the work to the Exam Committee.
 6. The PhD within SoLS is a Research Degree. Many credits will be earned in "research-orientated" courses that include summer work.
 7. Students must complete a written dissertation and publicly defend their work.

Typical timeline for the PhD Degree

Enroll in a minimum of 6 credits/semester to fulfill course and research requirements.

Year 1:

- Biology Graduate Core (3 credits)
- Ethics (1 credit)
- Seminars (3 credits)
- Colloquium (3 credits)
- Two didactic courses (6 credits)
- Spend full time in the laboratory or field over summer.

Year 2:

- Seminars (3 credits)
- Colloquium (3 credits)
- Three didactic courses (9 credits)

² for clarification of these terms see SoLS Graduate Programs Handbook

- Spend full time in the laboratory or field over summer.
- Take Comprehensive exam over the summer.

Year 3-6:

- Colloquium (3 credits)
- Research credits (18 credits)
- Dissertation Proposal Writing (3 credits)
- Dissertation credits (12 credits)
- Work full time on research project.
- Write and defend Dissertation.

Sample Program of Study: PhD Student

Courses	Credits
6 didactic courses at the 600- or 700-level	18
Biol 701—Ethics in Scientific Research	1
Biol 702—Intro to the Grad Core	3
Biol 793/796—Graduate Seminars	6
Biol 789—Independent Study (Pre-thesis)	4
Biol 790—Research Colloquium	8
Biol 791—Research Lab. Discussions	5
Biol 767—Dissertation Proposal Grant Writing	3
Biol 799—Dissertation	12
TOTAL	60