The Department of Biological Sciences offers graduate programs that provide students the opportunity to receive advanced training in specialties ranging from cellular and molecular biology to ecology and evolution. The department works closely with local industry, hospitals and research institutes/centers to provide graduates with specific training to help them attain their career goals.

The Master of Arts in Biological Sciences (M.A.) is a non-thesis, coursework-only degree specifically designed for those who wish to continue their studies in the biological sciences but are not seeking a research-based career. This allows students to enhance their experience for promotion in industry or teaching jobs or for professional schools.

For students looking to be more competitive in the job market for academic and industrial positions or desire research experience before applying to graduate or professional schools, the Master of Science in Biological Sciences (M.S.) is offered.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Sciences (Ph.D.) is a unique program in that it combines the traditional research experience associated with a degree in biology with the broad span of coursework and the pedagogical experience so vital to careers involving the effective communication of scientific concepts.

This program is specifically designed for those students who wish to pursue teaching or teaching and research careers in the biological sciences in colleges or universities. However, the pedagogy requirements also provide an excellent background for careers in government and industry, where the role of a Ph.D. is to organize and effectively communicated information.

Points of Pride
- Faculty have a high rate of external funding in research areas ranging from cellular and molecular biology to ecology and evolution.
- Students receive individualized mentoring from internationally renowned researchers at state-of-the-art research laboratories.
- Biological Sciences facilities include the C.R. Hanes Herbarium, as well as insect, mammal and bird collections.
- The Finch Greenhouse provides faculty, staff and students access to living plant collections and the opportunity to conduct plant, plant-insect and related research in a controlled environment.
- The Biology Imaging Center provides comprehensive scientific and technical expertise for both University-wide and external grants and contracts.

Industry Highlights
This program is specifically designed for students who wish to pursue careers in the biological sciences that require excellence in both teaching and research. The communication requirement also provides excellent training for careers in government and industry.
Teaching, Research and Program Focus Areas
Graduate students performing research receive extensive hands-on training from their faculty advisors. Students can tailor their course selection to meet their individual needs and career goals.

One of the department’s primary goals is to provide an environment that will foster excitement and curiosity about the life sciences. It also seeks to prepare students to function as productive members of the academic, private and public scientific communities.

Faculty research interests include:
- Cell biology
- Ecology
- Evolution
- Genetics
- Microbiology
- Neurobiology
- Physiology

Funding
Graduate assistantships are available on a competitive basis and with budgetary approval. Students may be accepted into the M.A., M.S., and Ph.D. programs without being granted an assistantship. The funding consideration deadline is Feb. 15, 2018.

Admission
The department recommends that prospective applicants contact faculty in their area of research to discuss the projects that they are interested in and the number of students the faculty are taking on.

The minimum recommended GPA for the M.A. and M.S. is 3.0. The minimum recommended GPA for the Ph.D. is 3.5 and GRE scores in the 50th percentile.

Domestic
M.A. applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, allowing students to begin coursework during the fall, spring and summer semesters.

M.S. and Ph.D. applications are accepted for the fall semester only. Fall 2018: Feb. 15, 2018

International
A TOEFL of 80 and IELTS of 6.5. The details are available on the International Admissions website at wmich.edu/internationaladmissions.

Fall 2018: Feb. 15, 2018
Spring 2019: Aug. 1, 2018
Summer 2019: Jan. 15, 2019

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Biological Sciences