# Master of Science (MS)
# Biological Sciences - Biological Sciences Option: 0640
# 2026-2027

The Master of Science: Biological Sciences - Biological Sciences Option (www.ecok.edu/gradstudies) is delivered in a blended format. This 30-hour program option has an estimated residential tuition and fees cost of $10,300 (www.ecok.edu/bursar).

The Biology Sciences Option is designed to strengthen the scientific portfolio and provide specialized preparation for those individuals seeking careers in the health industry, water science, ecology, or the natural sciences. The curriculum will strengthen student understanding of biology and increase competitiveness in their career of choice. The graduate student will design a plan-of-study with the graduate coordinator and select from thesis and non-thesis options to better prepare them for their career goals.

**Program Coordinator:** Alisha Howard, PhD, ahoward@ecok.edu, (580) 559-5792

**Legend placed after course rotations**

| I. Required Courses (6 Hours) | | | | FA | SP | SU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| _____ | BIOL | 5013 | Experimental Design/Data Analysis | L | -- | -- |
| _____ | BIOL | 5223 | Grant/Science Writing & Communication | -- | L | -- |

| II. Required Track Courses (9 Hours) | | | | FA | SP | SU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| _____ | BIOL | 5693 | Thesis | T | T | T |
| _____ | BIOL | 5713 | Teaching the Sciences | L | L | -- |
| _____ | BIOL | 5773 | Graduate Examination | T | T | T |

| III. Elective Courses (15 Hours: Five of the Following) | FA | SP | SU |
|---|---|---|---|
| _____ Any Elective Graduate Course in BIOL/GIS/EHS Approved by Graduate Advisory Committee | | | |
| _____ Any Elective Graduate Course in BIOL/GIS/EHS Approved by Graduate Advisory Committee | | | |
| _____ Any Elective Graduate Course in BIOL/GIS/EHS Approved by Graduate Advisory Committee | | | |
| _____ Any Elective Graduate Course in BIOL/GIS/EHS Approved by Graduate Advisory Committee | | | |
| _____ Any Elective Graduate Course in BIOL/GIS/EHS Approved by Graduate Advisory Committee | | | |
| _____ Any Elective Graduate Course in BIOL/GIS/EHS Approved by Graduate Advisory Committee | | | |

**Legend**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **FA:** Fall | **SP:** Spring | **SU:** Summer | **--:** Not Offered |
| **A:** 1st 8-Weeks (WEB) | **B:** 2nd 8-Weeks (WEB) | **F:** Full Sem (WEB) | **BL:** Blended |
| **L:** Live (Face-to-Face) | **T:** To Be Determined | **Y:** Synchronous Web | **E:** Offered Even Years |
| **O:** Offered Odd Years | **V:** Various Formats (Half-Day, Full-Day, Weekends, Nights, etc.) | | |

***Course Offerings are subject to change, and are not necessarily in sequential order***

## IV. Graduation Plan Options

First Semester - Meet w/Advisor to Finalize Program of Study

*Fall (1):* BIOL 5013, Elective, Elective

Graduate students are encouraged to review the BES Master's Student Handbook for department specific policies, thesis versus non-thesis track options, and student expectations.

## V. Enrollment, Overload, and Full-Time Equivalents

Fall/Spring

- Academic full-time is nine (9) hours per 16-week semester
- Full financial aid requires nine (9) hours per 16-week semester
- Graduate Dean approval is required for thirteen (13) hours per 16-week semester

Summer

- Academic full-time is six (6) hours per 8-week semester
- Full financial aid requires nine (9) hours per 8-week summer semester
- Graduate Dean approval is required for eleven (11) hours per 8-week semester

## VI. Financial Aid Regulations for Graduate Students

Students, please be advised that the courses you choose to enroll in must be a required course or an elective course in your degree program. Graduate students seeking financial aid must be enrolled in at least nine (9) credit hours to receive full financial aid. Graduate students enrolled in fewer than nine (9) hours will have their financial aid prorated appropriately.

- Certificates and Non-Degree Pathways do not qualify for financial aid.
- For questions contact the Office of Financial Aid: 580-559-5243 or financialaid@ecok.edu.

## VII. Graduation and Commencement

Students should apply for graduation just after they have enrolled for their last semester. This triggers a Degree Audit, which will inform the student of any course changes, course additions, or course substitutions required for graduation.

Commencement/Graduation is held twice a year (December and May):

- Completing Degree in Fall: Will Participate in December Ceremony
- Completing Degree in Spring: Will Participate in May Ceremony
- Completing Degree in Summer: Option to Participate in May or December Ceremony