Master of Science (MS)
Biological Sciences - Water Sciences Option: 0642
2026-2027

The Master of Science: Biological Sciences - Water 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 Water Sciences Option is designed to strengthen the scientific portfolio of those wishing to specialize in the water sciences, including graduate courses and work in Water Quality and Treatment, Environmental Toxicology, Advanced Limnology, Freshwater Invertebrate Zoology, Digital Mapping and GIS Workflows. Thesis and non-thesis options are also available in this concentration further optimizing student preparedness towards active research and field work (thesis) or content breadth and expansion (non-thesis).

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Legend placed after course rotations

				FA	**SP**	**SU**
I.	**Required Courses (6 Hours)**					
_____	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**
_____	BIOL	5021-3	Thesis II (Thesis-Track Students Only)	T	T	T
			Thesis-Track Student Only			
_____	BIOL	5133	Special Topics in Evolution	E	--	--
_____	BIOL	5144	Freshwater Invertebrate Zoology	E	--	--
_____	BIOL	5254	Special Topics in Entomology	--	E	--
_____	BIOL	5324	Advanced Topics in Herpetology	--	--	--
_____	BIOL	5405	Advanced Topics in Ecology	--	--	--
_____	BIOL	5414	Advanced Topics in Ecology	--	L	--
_____	BIOL	5424	Advanced Ethnobotany	--	--	--
_____	BIOL	5525	Advanced Plant Ecophysiology	O	--	--
_____	BIOL	5535	Advanced Plant Ecology	--	O	--
_____	BIOL	5935	Advanced Limnology	--	E	--
_____	BIOL	5981-4	Seminar in Biology	--	--	--
_____	BIOL	5991-4	Individual Study in Biology	--	--	--
_____	EHS	5223	Watershed Management	--	--	T
_____	EHS	5553	Water Quality & Treatment	E	--	--
_____	EHS	5802	Environmental Health Lab	--	--	--
_____	EHS	5803	Environmental Toxicology	O	--	--
_____	GIS	5613	Digital Mapping	E	--	--
_____	GIS	5753	Spatial Programming	--	E	--
_____	GIS	5913	Spatial Analysis	O	--	--
_____	GIS	5953	GIS Workflows	--	O	--

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