

MASTER OF
SCIENCE

BIOLOGY



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL
MISSOURI

Understanding the World Around Us: Biologists Lead the Way!

We know that the only thing constant is change, and with a degree in biology, you can help us understand our ever-changing planet through the biology of the animals and plants that call it home. Our program is designed to train both thesis and non-thesis students and keep you on the fast track to graduation — our student-centered program is dedicated to creating hands-on experiences producing professionals who are experts in their area of biology.

Want to Get in on the Fun?

This program requires a 2.75 cumulative GPA, a GRE score of 300, 30 hours of biology, eight hours of chemistry, and a letter of support from a UCM faculty member who has agreed to serve as your mentor. We also offer competitive graduate assistantships that pay you a monthly stipend and cover the majority of your tuition and fees.

Biology in Action

With our renovated labs, greenhouses, farms, and small class sizes, you will experience firsthand what life is like in environments that mimic the workplace. UCM's School of Natural Sciences provides a safe place to learn and advance your skills with opportunities to work alongside faculty in conducting real-life research on relevant topics that impact our region.



"This degree has allowed me to pursue a career in natural resource work as well as branch out into the information technology field. The curriculum and research developed my skills in technical writing, presentation/public speaking, scientific literature review, grant writing, statistical analysis, and teamwork! I can confidently say that these skills, as well as others, are regularly used in my professional work and personal life and the degree was the process through which I developed them."

— Alex Prentice, graduate,
IT Project Manager at Missouri
Department of Conservation



Choose the Course of Your Life!

The MS in Biology program offers an array of unique experiences not typically offered at other institutions due to the diversity of our respected faculty whose areas of expertise range from field ecology to molecular biology. We support specialty research areas in animal reproduction, aquatic ecology, cell biology, developmental biology, mammalogy, ornithology, physiology, plant physiology, science education, and wildlife disease to mention a few. We pair this with the laboratory, field, and farm resources to allow you to explore a uniquely broad range of research topics.

Make Discoveries Beyond Campus

Our local partnerships with federal and state agencies allow this program to break down the walls of the classroom and turn local lakes, state parks, farms, and greenhouses into learning environments. Our expanding partnerships with private laboratories and other academic groups closes the loop on molecular biology theory and functional molecular biology skills. UCM is proud to offer opportunities to learn beyond the classroom by traveling to regional, national, or international conferences to present your research to the scientific community. You can even study abroad in Belize — spend days exploring underwater habitats like coral reefs while performing meaningful research on the marine life inhabiting the second largest barrier reef left in the world! For more information about opportunities to study abroad, visit ucmo.edu/studyabroad.

Meet Friends and Get Involved!

Getting involved is one of the primary tools for success. It presents a chance to boost your resume and meet fellow students who share your passions. That is why we create a collaborative environment for our graduate students so you will earn experience critiquing peers, writing grants, presenting research at scientific meetings, leadership in the UCM Grad Student Association, and support offered by the Graduate Education and Research office.

Focus on Your Future, Not Your Funding

UCM has made finding and applying for scholarships more accessible than ever with the UCM Scholarship Finder, which allows students to apply for multiple scholarships at one time. Simply fill out one application and it will be automatically submitted toward eligible scholarships! See what you may qualify for at ucmo.edu/scholarshipfinder. You can also earn a tuition credit and stipend with graduate teaching assistantships, some students even find funding through professors who have received external grants dedicated to research.

“My MS from UCM allowed me to continue my education and helped me secure a highly competitive research fellowship at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where I completed my Ph.D. I credit my experience at UCM with a lot of my success. I was welcomed by many of my professors, and their support allowed me to find my way as a scientist.”

**– David Penning Ph.D , graduate,
Assistant Professor of Biology**



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Lead the Way and Apply Today!
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