

Plant Biology (PhD)

Graduate study in plant biology is available in the following areas: algal physiology, plant biochemistry, cell biology, development, ecology, evolution, molecular biology, natural products chemistry, photobiology, phycology, plant anatomy, plant biogeography, plant morphology, plant physiology, population biology, systematics, and ultrastructure.

Graduate Handbook

Graduate handbook information is updated and maintained by each program. Graduate handbooks are available within each program's office and [online](#). Please contact the program with concerns or questions.

Admission

The undergraduate training of students planning to undertake graduate study in plant biology should ordinarily include at least 24 semester hours in plant biology and/or other biological sciences. At least 12 of these must be in upper-division work. This requirement in the major should be supported by coursework in the other sciences, especially chemistry, physics, and mathematics.

Total Hours Required: 30

Requirements

The PhD degree requires a minimum of 30 semester hours, including a minimum of six hours of dissertation. The average time to degree is six-seven years of full-time enrollment, with approximately 105-120 hours of course registration including research and dissertation hours.

Code	Title	Hours
All students must also follow the following requirements and policies:		
Graduate Natural Sciences Requirements		
Graduate University Requirements		

Mastery of an integrated and meaningful program of graduate study is deemed more important than the completion of a prescribed number of semester hours. Most programs include at least four graduate courses in plant biology. Further supporting work in related sciences augments the program.

Admission to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy degree requires approval of the Graduate Studies Committee and is based on the total record of the student, performance in graduate courses, and such further examinations as the committee may require. A research proposal, written by the student, is a major part of the qualifying exam, which is administered by the student's Qualifying Exam Committee by the end of the second year in residence.