Twin Cities Campus

Ecology, Evolution and Behavior M.S.

Ecology, Evolution & Behavior

College of Biological Sciences

Link to a [list of faculty](#) for this program.

Contact Information:
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Website: http://www.cbs.umn.edu/explore/departments/eeb/graduate/about-program

- Program Type: Master's
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2017
- Length of program in credits: 30
- This program requires summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Master of Science

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the [General Information](#) section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The graduate program in ecology, evolution, and behavior (EEB) links faculty and students interested in the biology of organisms from molecules to ecosystems. Studies address questions from molecular mechanisms of evolution, the interactions of organisms in social groups and populations, the distributions and abundances of species in communities and ecosystems, to global biogeochemical processes. The program provides broad training in the general areas of ecology, evolution, and animal behavior, and specialized courses and research in vertebrate and invertebrate zoology; behavior and ethology; evolution; population genetics; molecular evolution; systematics; population, community, and ecosystem ecology; global ecology; limnology; ecology of vegetation; and theoretical ecology. Opportunities for field research are available in Africa, Central America, and other parts of the world, as well as in local ecosystems, including the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve and Itasca Biological Station. Seminars and individually designed tutorials are an important part of student programs and provide an exciting intellectual environment.

Program Delivery

This program is available:
- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

Other requirements to be completed before admission:

Courses in inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, general physics, one year of college calculus, animal biology, genetics, physiology, and plant biology are strongly recommended and provide an important background to pursue graduate work in EEB. Proficiency in a foreign language is not required but is strongly recommended for students who expect to pursue field work in a country where English is not the native language. Deficiencies must be made up early in the graduate program.

Special Application Requirements:
Students are admitted only in fall semester. Deadline for application is December 1. Refer to the EEB website for more details.

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:
- TOEFL
  - Internet Based - Total Score: 79
  - Internet Based - Writing Score: 21
  - Internet Based - Reading Score: 19
  - Paper Based - Total Score: 550
- IELTS
  - Total Score: 6.5
- MELAB
  - Final score: 80

Key to [test abbreviations](#)(TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the [General Information](#) section of the catalog website.

Program Requirements

Plan A: Plan A requires 20 major credits, 0 credits outside the major, and 10 thesis credits.The final exam is written and oral.

Plan B: Plan B requires 30 major credits and 0 credits outside the major.The final exam is written and oral.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses towards program requirements is not permitted.

A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for students to remain in good standing.

At least 2 semesters must be completed before filing a Degree Program Form.

The MS is offered under both Plan A (with thesis) and Plan B (without thesis). Plan A requires 20 course credits in the major and 10 thesis credits. Plan B requires 30 course credits and a research paper. Students pursuing the joint JD/MS degree have the exception that some Law courses can be "cross counted" for credit. Degree programs are planned by the student and an advisory committee of three faculty members to meet the student's interests and needs.

EEB Foundations course: EEB 8201-8202
All students are expected to complete EEB 8201-8202 their first year. The goal of this course is to provide students in their first year with foundation of knowledge in ecology, evolution and behavior.
EEB 8201 - Graduate Foundations in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior Semester 1 (4.0 cr)
EEB 8202 - Graduate Foundations in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior - Semester 2 (4.0 cr)

Electives/Supporting Courses
Plan A students select a minimum of 12 coursework credits and Plan B students select a minimum of 22 elective credits, in consultation with the advisor. Electives may include courses in statistics or history of science if additional background is needed.
EEB 5042 - Quantitative Genetics (3.0 cr)
or EEB 5053 - Ecology: Theory and Concepts (4.0 cr)
or EEB 5068 - Plant Physiological Ecology (3.0 cr)
or EEB 5221 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
or EEB 5322 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
or EEB 5327 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
or EEB 5371 - Principles of Systematics (3.0 cr)
or EEB 5407 - Ecology (3.0 cr)
or EEB 5409 - Evolution (3.0 cr)
or EEB 5601 - Limnology (3.0 cr)
or EEB 5605 *{Inactive}*(2.0 cr)
or EEB 5609 - Ecosystem Ecology (3.0 cr)
or EEB 8150 - EEB Lab Tours (1.0 cr)
or EEB 8151 - EEB Lab Tours (1.0 cr)
or EEB 8200 - Sustainability Science Distributed Graduate Seminar (3.0 cr)
or EEB 8301 - Prelim Proposal Writing Seminar (1.0 cr)
or EEB 8302 - EEB Written Prelim Workshop (1.0 cr)
or EEB 8360 - Behavioral Biology Seminar (1.0 cr)
or EEB 8500 - NSF GRF Graduate Research Fellowship Proposal Writing Seminar (1.0 cr)
or EEB 8601 - Introduction to Stream Restoration (3.0 cr)
or EEB 8602 - Stream Restoration Practice (2.0 cr)
or EEB 8641 - Spatial Ecology (3.0 cr)
or EEB 8980 - Seminar on Current Topics (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
or EEB 8990 - Graduate Seminar (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
or EEB 8991 - Independent Study: Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior (1.0 - 10.0 cr)
or **Courses Outside of EEB**
Students may select graduate-level courses outside of EEB in consultation with their advisor.
AGRO 5121 - Applied Experimental Design (4.0 cr)
or BIOL 8100 - Improvisation for Scientists (1.0 cr)
or DSSC 8111 - Approaches to Knowledge and Truth: Ways of Knowing in Development Studies and Social Change (3.0 cr)
or EPSY 5262 - Intermediate Statistical Methods (3.0 cr)
or FW 8051 - Statistical Modeling of Ecological Data using R and WinBugs/JAGS (4.0 cr)
or HSCI 5211 - Biology and Culture in the 19th and 20th Centuries [CIV] (3.0 cr)
or HSCI 5242 - Navigating a Darwinian World (3.0 cr)

   or HSCI 5244 - Nature's History: Science, Humans, and the Environment (3.0 cr)
   or HSCI 8920 - Seminar: History of Biological Sciences (3.0 cr)
   or PA 5701 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
   or PA 5721 - Energy Systems and Policy (3.0 cr)
   or PHIL 5602 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
   or PUBH 6450 - Biostatistics I (4.0 cr)
   or STAT 5021 - Statistical Analysis (4.0 cr)
   or STAT 5101 - Theory of Statistics I (4.0 cr)
   or STAT 5201 - Sampling Methodology in Finite Populations (3.0 cr)
   or STAT 5302 - Applied Regression Analysis (4.0 cr)
   or STAT 5303 - Designing Experiments (4.0 cr)
   or STAT 5601 - Nonparametric Methods (3.0 cr)
   or BIOL 5272 - Applied Biostatistics (4.0 cr)
   or HSCI 5401 - Ethics in Science and Technology (3.0 cr)
   or HSCI 8112 - Historiography of Science, Technology, and Medicine (3.0 cr)
   or FNRM 5262 - Remote Sensing and Geospatial Analysis of Natural Resources and Environment (3.0 cr)

Ethics Requirement
A four-session ethics seminar offered during the Friday Noon Seminar series. Required areas of ethics include: Academic and Research Community; Authorship; Peer Review and Research Conduct.

Plan A

Plan A Thesis
Take exactly 10 credit(s) from the following:
• EEB 8777 - Thesis Credits: Master's (1.0 - 18.0 cr)
Joint- or Dual-degree Coursework:JD/MS-Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Student may take a total of 12 credits in common among the academic programs.