

Summary of Application Process (Junior Year)

- Identify thesis advisor (primary or secondary appointment in Department of Biology) and research project
- Complete Graduate Application Form (https://www.uvm.edu/graduate/application_instructions)
- Arrange to have 3 letters of recommendation sent, including one from your MS advisor
- Include your statement of purpose (research experience, proposed project, faculty sponsor)
- Arrange for undergraduate transcripts to be included in the application

Biology AMP

All students must meet the Requirements for the Accelerated Master's Degree Programs

Overview

An accelerated master's degree in biology can be earned in a shortened time by applying and being accepted in the junior year of undergraduate work. Biology, Biological Science, Zoology, Neuroscience, Environmental Science, or Biochemistry majors should discuss this possibility with the department's graduate program director as soon as they think they might be interested in the program. The AMP M.S. is expected to be earned in one additional year.

The AMP in Biology is a thesis-degree. Beyond the required course work, students must carry out independent research, and write up a final thesis that is comparable to that for the standard MS degree.

Learning and achievement goals for AMP students are:

- Conduct experiments and gather data for your research project.
- Statistically analyze the data and prepare publication-quality graphs of the results
- Be able to execute scientific experiments, analyze and communicate experimental results orally and in writing.
- Have a working knowledge of the fundamental literature, concepts and ideas of field of study.
- Have a broad factual and conceptual knowledge of biology.

Application Process

As with the standard MS and PhD program, the Biology Department does not accept students unless they have identified a faculty sponsor who will advise them and oversee the research.

Therefore, the first step in applying to the AMP program is to find an appropriate faculty member with a primary or secondary appointment within the Biology Department. Potential applicants should directly e-mail and correspond with faculty members who might serve as research advisors. Because of space limitations and faculty leaves, not all faculty members are able to accept students in every semester. The faculty advisor needs to be identified in the student's junior year.

Once you have secured a faculty sponsor, you are ready to apply to the program. The application is available through the Graduate College, and it is the same application for standard MS and PhD

candidates. Although the AMP program does not require you to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), you will need to secure 3 letters of recommendation, one of which should be from the faculty advisor you have selected.

The application also includes an essay in which you explain why you are interested in pursuing the AMP. The essay should not focus on your passion for biology (or for living in Vermont). Rather, it should explain your specific research goals, the skills and experience that you would bring to the program, and a brief description of your career goals or plans for after the AMP. The essay should also identify the faculty member who has agreed to sponsor you and discuss your past and future research with this advisor.

After applications are submitted in the fall of the junior year, admittance will be announced early in the next semester.

To be eligible for the Accelerated Master's Program, a student must be a declared Biology, Biological Science, Zoology, Neuroscience, Environmental science or Biochemistry B.S. major, and have identified a Biology faculty sponsor. Other requirements include a GPA typically higher than 3.10 overall and 3.30 in biology courses. Following admission, students are required to take at least three credits of undergraduate research with a Biology faculty member who is the intended research advisor, usually in their senior year. After graduation with the B.S. degree, students are eligible to become candidates for the AMP M.S. degree.

Minimum Degree Requirements

Nine or more additional course credits in biology and related fields, of which 6 units can come from approved undergraduate courses; thesis research (six minimum, twelve typical, and up to fifteen credits); and successful defense of thesis.

Requirements for Advancement to Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Science

You will need to meet with your advisor in your Junior year to plan out your schedule of courses for the senior year and the year afterward. 6 units of undergraduate classes from this list (http://catalogue.uvm.edu/graduate/biology/biologyamp/?_ga=2.141911860.706518062.1539635099-2083109453.1449879020) will count towards the degree.

TimeLine for AMP students

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| Fall Junior Year: | Find thesis advisor who will sponsor your project. |
| | Apply to AMP program through graduate college. |
| | Plan course schedule with advisor for junior and senior years. |
| Spring Junior Year: | Initiate or continue with research project. |
| | Choose additional committee members for the thesis. |
| | Take selected undergraduate courses towards the AMP (up to 6 units total). |

Fall Senior Year: Continue with research project.
Meeting with full committee to outline research plans, course work, and time line.
Take selected undergraduate courses toward the AMP (up to 6 units total).

Spring Senior Year Continue with research project.
Take selected undergraduate courses toward the AMP (up to 6 units total).

Fall Graduate Year Continue with research project.
Take selected graduate courses (3 additional units) and research thesis hours (6-15 hours total).

Spring Graduate Year Take selected graduate courses and research thesis hours (6-15 hours total).
Submit written thesis.
Oral thesis defense.