The requirements listed in the General Announcements (GA) satisfy the minimum requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses (or requirements) not officially listed here may be substituted upon approval of the program's academic advisor, or where applicable, the department or program's Director of Graduate Studies. Course substitutions or any exceptions to the stated official curricular requirements must be approved by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (https://graduate.rice.edu/). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

### Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 569</td>
<td>CORE COURSE IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 584</td>
<td>GRADUATE SEMINAR IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY (required in all years of residency, fall semester)</td>
<td>1 credit hour per year</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOS 586</td>
<td>GRADUATE SEMINAR IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY (required in all years of residency, spring semester)</td>
<td>1 credit hour per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 589</td>
<td>EEB OUTREACH DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 591</td>
<td>GRADUATE TEACHING IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY (two semesters)</td>
<td>1-15 hours per semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 801</td>
<td>ECOLOGY &amp; EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY GRADUATE RESEARCH</td>
<td>2 credit hours or more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Coursework as Approved by Department

- **Course Substitutions:** Students may substitute up to 3 credit hours of any combination of BIOS "Topics" courses (BIOS 561, BIOS 562, BIOS 563, BIOS 568) with other approved courses, subject to approval by the student's academic advisor.
- **Credit Hours:** The total number of credit hours required for the MS degree is 30, with a minimum of 10 credit hours required of BIOS 801 Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Graduate Research.

### Footnotes and Additional Information

1. Students must complete 2 semesters of BIOS 591 during their first 4 semesters to gain teaching experience; additional teaching experiences are available on an optional basis.
2. A minimum of 10 credit hours of BIOS 801 Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Graduate Research is required for a master's degree. BIOS 801 credit hours vary per student, depending on the number of other courses the student is taking in a given semester.
At least 2 topics courses must be completed before candidacy. Students are strongly encouraged to take at least 1 topics course per semester during all years of residency.

Evaluation of Progress in Graduate Study
Students must maintain a minimum grade average of B (3.00 grade points) in courses taken in the department and satisfactory grades in courses taken outside the department. Students must demonstrate satisfactory progress in their degree program in annual reviews by the EEB faculty. The review process requires that each student:

- Presents a public seminar on their research at the annual EEB Graduate Student Symposium
- Prepares a written report on their progress

First-year students must also participate in a meeting with the EEB Graduate Advising Committee.

MS Degree Program
In addition to the general university requirements and those listed above, the MS degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology requires:

- Convening a master’s thesis committee. A thesis committee is composed of at least three members. Two, including the committee chair, must be members of the student’s department faculty.
- Completing an original investigation and a master’s thesis.
- Presenting a departmental seminar on the research.
- Publicly defending the master’s thesis.

Policies for the MS Degree in the field of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Ecology and Evolutionary Graduate Program Handbook
The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2022_23/Ecology_Evolutionary_Biology_Graduate_Handbook.pdf

Admission
Applicants for graduate study in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Program must have:

- BA or BS degree or equivalent that provides a strong background in biology
- Strong ability and motivation, as indicated by academic record and recommendations
- Scores from the GRE biology subject exam are optional but can be helpful, particularly for students with nontraditional backgrounds in biology

These requirements do not preclude admission of qualified applicants who have majored in areas other than biology. Although the program offers MS degrees, only on rare occasions are students who do not intend to pursue the PhD admitted to the graduate program. For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-opportunities/degrees/).

Transfer Credit
For Rice University’s policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program’s advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines
Students pursuing the MS degree in the field of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director on an individual case-by-case basis.

Additional Information
For additional information, please see the BioSciences website: https://biosciences.rice.edu/

Opportunities for the MS Degree in the field of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
All full-time Ecology and Evolutionary Biology graduate students receive funding and full tuition waivers as specified in their offer letters. Information about Student Resources, Attendance at Scientific Conferences, Internships, Graduate Students Awards, the Graduate Student Association, etc. can be found in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Graduate Program handbook here: http://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2018_19/Ecology_Evolutionary_Biology_Graduate_Handbook.pdf

Additional Information
For additional information, please see the BioSciences website: https://biosciences.rice.edu/