

MICROBIOME SCIENCES

Degree Requirements

To qualify for a dual-title degree, students must satisfy the requirements of the major graduate program in which they are enrolled, in addition to the minimum requirements of the Microbiome Sciences program. In accordance with Graduate Council policy (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-602-phd-committee-formation/>), the Ph.D. committee must include at least one Graduate Faculty member from Microbiome Sciences. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the Ph.D. committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in Microbiome Sciences, the member of the committee representing Microbiome Sciences must be appointed as co-chair. The Microbiome Sciences representative on the student's Ph.D. committee will develop questions for and participate in the evaluation of the comprehensive examination.

To fulfill the course requirements for the dual-title in Microbiome Sciences, students must complete a total of 15 credits including 2 credits of MBIOM 550 and at least 13 credits chosen in consultation with the adviser from an approved list of courses, with at least 3 credits in each of the following areas: microbial sciences, ecology and evolution, and bioinformatics and research tools. All students must pass a qualifying examination in their major field of study. The qualifying examination for the student's graduate major program will satisfy the qualifying examination for the dual-title degree program in Microbiome Sciences. The qualifying examination for the major program must take place before the end of the fourth semester to enable enrollment in the dual-title Microbiome Sciences program by that time. The qualifying examination committee will be composed of Graduate Faculty from the major program and may include, but is not required to include, a faculty member who holds appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty.

A Ph.D. dissertation that contributes to the field of Microbiome Sciences is required. A public oral presentation of the dissertation is required, which may be part of the final defense within the major degree program. The dissertation must be accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Fox Graduate School.