

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. Students are required to have two advisers from separate disciplines: one individual serving as a primary adviser in their major degree program and a secondary adviser in an area within a field covered by the Dual-Title program and a member of the Microbiome Sciences faculty. The major program adviser normally will also be a member of the Microbiome Sciences faculty. The two faculty advisers can represent different academic programs, but this is not required, as faculty from a scientifically diverse department could represent very different areas of expertise.

To fulfill the course requirements for the dual-title in Microbiome Sciences, students must complete a total of 15 credits including 2 credits of ECLGY 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.

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for Ph.D. committees, the student's Ph.D. committee must include Graduate Faculty from the major program and must also include at least one member of the Microbiome Sciences Graduate Faculty. 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 a 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.

A Ph.D. dissertation that contributes fundamentally 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 Graduate School.