Exceptional students are given the opportunity to earn a Bachelor’s Degree and Master’s Degree in 5 years.

This program prepares students for careers in a wide variety of fields including bioinformatics, drug discovery, education and conservation. Employers may be state or federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, environmental consulting and remediation firms, to name just a few.

Students who have a Master’s degree significantly increase their chances of getting into the PhD program of their choice. Additionally, most of the graduate credits earned here at Tech can be transferred to a PhD program.
What is it

Exceptionally well motivated students may earn both BS and MS degrees in Biology in five years.

The student fulfills the requirements for a BS degree in four years and for an MS degree the following year. A minimum of 160 credit hours are required to complete both degrees.

The MS degree requires the completion of a thesis based on the student’s own research.

Who can Apply

Students may apply for the BS/MS program at the end of their 4th semester. Admission is contingent on their having a GPA of at least 3.0, and on the acceptability of their proposed course of study. Students with upper division standing may also apply, with the same requirements for admission.

Students in the five-year program must apply for graduate standing, normally in their 6th semester. Once admitted to the graduate program, the student spends his or her 8th semester as a dually registered student. During their senior year, the student must select a graduate advisory committee and formalize his or her graduate research topic.

Once admitted to the graduate program, a student may apply for financial support via research assistant or teaching assistant positions.

Research Opportunities

Students are afforded various opportunities to contribute to the body of scientific knowledge through research projects sponsored by entities such as The National Institutes of Health, The National Science Foundation and private industry.

Faculty directed projects have included:

- Microbiology of deep groundwater environments in South Africa and South Dakota (Dr. Tom Kieft)
- Genetic responses to environmental changes using bioinformatics (Dr. Rebecca Reiss)
- Discovery of anti-microbial and anti-cancer drugs (Dr. Snežna Rogelj)
- The response of lifespan to dietary restrictions (Dr. Kevin Kirk)

More information can be found on the Biology Department website at www.nmt.edu/~biology/