MICROBIOLOGY AND
MOLECULAR GENETICS

Graduate Programs
The department offers graduate studies leading to the MS and
PhD degrees in various areas of concentration, including microbial
physiology, microbial genetics, microbial ecology, microbial pathogenesis,
immunology, cell biology and the human microbiome.

Prerequisites
Applicants for admission must have received the baccalaureate degree
from an accredited university or college and must have completed a
minimum of 30 semester credit hours in the biological and physical
sciences. The Aptitude Test portion of the Graduate Record Examination
is required of all applicants. A majority of the departmental graduate
faculty must approve applicants.

The Master of Science Degree
In addition to the general requirements for the degree, the following
departmental requirements must be met in attaining 30 credit hours with
thesis. The plan of study must include six thesis hours and one credit
hour microbiology seminar for the traditional degree. An accelerated MS
degree is available that is largely coursework and literature based, which
allows completion of the degree in as little as 12 months. Literature
research includes at least six credit hours in independent study.

Candidates for the MS degree are expected to attend and participate in
all departmental seminars. A final oral examination covering the thesis
(or literature research for the accelerated program) is administered by the
advisory committee following a public presentation of the candidate's
research.

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree
The study plan of a student entering the program with a bachelor's degree
must include 30 credit hours in the biological and physical sciences.
Those entering with a master's degree must include 15 hours in courses
other than dissertation credits which were not included in the master's
study plan. Three hours of microbiology seminar must be included.

Candidates for the PhD are expected to attend and participate in all
departmental seminars. Candidates for the PhD degree must pass both
a written and an oral qualifying examination. The final examination
covering the dissertation research is given promptly after the candidate
has given a public seminar on his/her research work.