

# ACCELERATED BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY/MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

**Web Site:** <https://twu.edu/biology/undergraduate-programs/bachelor-of-science-in-biology/>

## Admissions

It is recommended that students interested in this path speak with their undergraduate advisor as early as their freshman year of study. Once admitted to the accelerated program, students must meet with their undergraduate advisor each semester prior to registering for courses. During the final semester of undergraduate coursework, students should seek advising from the Division Head for Graduate Studies to discuss a graduate degree plan.

## Division Head for Graduate Studies

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daveritt (<https://catalog.twu.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biology/accelerated-biology-bs-ms/daveritt@twu.edu>)@twu.edu (spierce9@twu.edu)

## Application Deadlines

- Priority application deadline: February 15
- Final application deadline: June 1

## Admissions Requirements

To apply to the Accelerated B.S. in Biology / M.S. in Biology program, students must:

- Be currently enrolled in the B.S. in Biology program (<https://catalog.twu.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biology/>) at TWU.
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.2 at the time of application.
- Complete the following courses with a grade of B or higher:
  - BIOL 4813, BIOL 4811, BIOL 4823, and BIOL 4821
- Have already completed a minimum of one semester of BIOL 4983 Undergraduate Research at the time of application, and have a commitment from a Division of Biology faculty member to serve as their M.S. advisor and thesis committee chair.
- Have successfully completed a minimum of 72 semester credit hours of coursework toward the B.S. in Biology.
- Have a minimum of 12 semester credit hours (SCH) of electives remaining toward the B.S. in Biology degree.

## How to Apply to the Accelerated Program

Students interested in applying to the Accelerated B.S. in Biology / M.S. in Biology program must contact the Division Head for Graduate Studies (<https://catalog.twu.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biology/accelerated-biology-bs-ms/daveritt@twu.edu>) to schedule a pre-application appointment prior to applying.

Once approved to apply to the Accelerated Program, students must apply to the graduate M.S. in Biology - Thesis Option Program (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school/>).

Students cannot enroll in graduate-level coursework until accepted by the Graduate School.

The application for the M.S. in Biology Program requires the following:

1. Statement of Purpose (1-3 pages) that describes your reasons for pursuing graduate work, your background experience, and how your professional goals align with our accelerated master's program.
2. Curriculum vitae or resume
3. Letters of recommendation from 3 academic references. One reference must be the Division of Biology faculty member who will serve as the student's M.S. advisor and thesis committee chair.
4. Admissions interview (videoconference or phone).

## Accelerated Undergraduate-Graduate Program Policy Guidelines

Students may apply to an approved accelerated degree program once they have completed at least 60 undergraduate semester credit hours. Upon admission to an accelerated program, students may enroll in graduate courses for credit once they have attained at least 72 undergraduate semester credit hours. Approved courses will apply to both an undergraduate and a graduate degree.

## Conditions

- Up to 12 SCH of designated graduate courses may apply to both the Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree program comprised of 45 or fewer SCH; and up to 15 graduate SCH may apply toward both an undergraduate degree and a graduate degree program comprised of more than 45 SCH (Master's, Specialist or Doctoral degree.)
- Undergraduate students may enroll in no more than 6 SCH of graduate coursework in each semester or term.
- No undergraduate-level course may count toward a graduate degree.
- Minimal criteria for admission will include a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0. Academic components may set higher requirements for their program.
- Once admitted to an accelerated program, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA throughout the remainder of their baccalaureate degree, or their admission to the accelerated graduate program may be revoked. Academic components may set additional requirements for their programs.
- Prior to applying to an accelerated degree program, students must have completed a minimum of 15 semester credit hours at Texas Woman's University.

## Graduate Application Process

All students must meet the University requirements as outlined in the Admission to the TWU Graduate School (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school/>) section of the catalog.

This academic program may have additional graduate admission criteria that must also be completed as outlined on the graduate program's website.