Studies, to include:
graduate committee, the Graduate Advisory Committee, and Graduate
Completion of all requirements as established by the departmental
Sciences
Requirements for the MS in Biological
Our faculty conducts active research in general ecology, evolutionary
biology, microbial ecology, molecular genetics, conservation biology,
restoration ecology, cell biology, and plant pathology.
The department maintains high expectations and standards for
professional conduct and productivity which prepare students to meet
their specific goals.

Requirements for the MS in Biological
Sciences
Completion of all requirements as established by the departmental
graduate committee, the Graduate Advisory Committee, and Graduate
Studies, to include:

1. Completion of an approved program consisting of 30 units of
   400/500/600-level courses as follows:
   a. At least 18 units in the discipline of biological sciences.
   b. BIOL 600, to be completed during the first fall semester.
   c. At least one unit of BIOL 605, to be completed during the first
      year.
   d. At least 18 of the units required for the degree in 600-level
      courses.
   e. At the discretion of the academic program, a maximum of 30
      percent of the units counted toward the degree requirements
      may be special session credit earned in non-matriculated
      status combined with all transfer coursework. This applies
      to special session credit earned through Open University, or
      in courses offered for academic credit through Professional
      & Continuing Education. (Correspondence courses and UC
      Extension coursework are not acceptable for transfer).
   f. Not more than 15 units taken before admission to classified
      status.
   g. Not more than four units of Independent Study (697) and six units
      of Master’s Thesis (699).
2. Completion and final approval of an independent research project
   resulting in an acceptable thesis as specified by the student’s
   Graduate Advisory Committee.
3. Presentation of a seminar based on the student’s master’s thesis
   research. This seminar will usually be given during the semester in
   which the student plans to complete the degree requirements.
4. Approval by the departmental graduate committee and the Graduate
   Council on behalf of the faculty of the University.

The Option in Botany
Students may additionally consider completing a Master of Science
in Biological Sciences with an Option in Botany. Upon completion, the
Option in Botany will be included with the posted degree on the academic
record and on the diploma.

This is a four-semester sequence of graduate level coursework that
includes field, laboratory, and primary literature based courses. It
differs from the Ecological, Evolutionary, and Organismal or Cellular
and Molecular Biology emphasis that can be completed as part of the
general MS in Biological Sciences, in that it requires at least 18 units of
plant related courses at the 400 level or above.

1. Completion of all requirements for the MS in Biological Sciences as
   noted above.
2. At least 18 units of 400/600-level plant related courses.
3. At least 60% of the units required for the degree must be 600-level
   courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 672</td>
<td>Plant Ecology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 14 units from the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 414</td>
<td>Plant Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 442</td>
<td>Plant Morphology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 446</td>
<td>Plant Pathology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 448</td>
<td>Plant Diversity and Identification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 451</td>
<td>Plant Geography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 613</td>
<td>Population Ecology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 614</td>
<td>Topics in Ecology and Systematics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate Grading Requirements
All courses in the major (with the exceptions of Independent Study - 697,
Master's Project - 699P, and Master's Thesis - 699T) must be taken for
a letter grade, except those courses specified by the department as ABC/
No Credit (400/500-level courses), AB/No Credit (600-level courses), or
Credit/No Credit grading only. A maximum of 10 units combined of ABC/
No Credit, AB/No Credit, and Credit/No Credit grades may be used on the
approved program (including 697, 699P, 699T and courses outside the
major). While grading standards are determined by individual programs
and instructors, it is also the policy of the University that unsatisfactory
grades may be given when work fails to reflect achievement of the
high standards, including high writing standards, expected of students
pursuing graduate study.

Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average in each of
the following three categories: all coursework taken at any accredited
institution subsequent to admission to the master’s program; all
coursework taken at California State University, Chico subsequent to
admission to the program; and all courses on the approved master’s
degree program.

Continuous enrollment is required. At the discretion of the academic
program, a maximum of 30 percent of the units counted toward the
degree requirements may be special session credit earned in non-
matriculated status combined with all transfer coursework. This applies
to special session credit earned through Open University, or in courses offered for academic credit through Professional & Continuing Education.

**Graduate Time Limit**
All requirements for the degree are to be completed within five years of the end of the semester of enrollment in the oldest course applied toward the degree. See Master's Degree Requirements (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/graduate-requirements/masters-degree-requirements/) for complete details on general degree requirements.

**Graduate Requirement in Writing Proficiency**
All students must demonstrate competency in writing skills as a requirement for graduation. Biological sciences students will demonstrate their writing competence through satisfactory completion of BIOL 600.

**Prerequisites for Admission to Conditionally Classified Status**
1. Satisfactory grade point average as specified in Graduate and Postbaccalaureate Admission Requirements (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/graduate-requirements/graduate-postbaccalaureate-admission-requirements/).
2. Approval by the department and Graduate Studies.
3. An acceptable baccalaureate in biological sciences from an accredited institution, or an equivalent approved by Graduate Studies.
4. Letter of Intent and two letters of recommendation.
5. Acceptance by a California State University, Chico faculty member.

**Prerequisites for Admission to Classified Status**
In addition to any requirements listed above:

1. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the 60 units of undergraduate work.

**Advancement to Candidacy**
In addition to any requirements listed above:

1. Satisfactory completion of BIOL 600.
2. Establishment of a Graduate Advisory Committee.
3. Submission of an Approved Program Plan.
4. Successful completion of a qualifying exam.