

# Microbiology and Immunology

*Note: MSU's programs in the biological sciences are distributed across multiple departments. MSU does not have a single Department of Biology. For additional options see Biological Sciences (<http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/agriculture/biological-sciences>) at MSU.*

## Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Programs are designed to prepare students for careers in microbiology with emphasis in medical microbiology, immunology, molecular biology, virology, microbial physiology, microbial ecology, microbial genetics, and environmental microbiology. The Microbiology curriculum has two options: Microbiology (with various tracks) and Medical Laboratory Science. There is also a Biotechnology curriculum with a Microbial Systems option. Some courses in these options require additional course fees.

## Microbiology Option

In this option, students obtain a thorough education in the fields of medical, ecological, physiological, and environmental microbiology, immunology, virology, and molecular biology. This curriculum is excellent preparation for:

- graduate study in microbiology and other fields of the biological sciences
- medical, dental, and other professional schools
- careers in industry, university, institute, and government laboratories

There are several tracks a student can choose within this option to tailor their studies to their interests. These include the Microbiology Track, the Pre-Medical Track, the Pre-Veterinary Track, the Environmental Track, and the Environmental Health Track.

## Medical Laboratory Science Option

This option is designed to prepare students for careers in Clinical Laboratory Science. Students develop competence in a range of medically-oriented fields including immunology, medical bacteriology, virology parasitology, hematology, mycology, and chemistry. Foundations in molecular biology and statistics are also emphasized.

The Department of Microbiology and Immunology has two plans for students seeking a career in Medical Laboratory Science (MLS), Plan "A" and Plan "B."

Plan A (3+1) allows students to attend classes at MSU for three years and apply for an internship the fourth year with an affiliated MLS program. The Montana Medical Laboratory Science Training Program is located at MSU and meets the professional standards and is approved by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, 5600 N. River Rd., Suite 720, Rosemont IL 60018-5119, (773) 714-8880. MSU also has an affiliation agreement with the Sacred Heart School of Medical Technology in Spokane and Health One Alliance School of Medical Technology, Denver. Students with a 2.5 GPA or greater who are accepted will spend their fourth year in this program. Upon completion of the one-year internship, students receive a BS degree in Microbiology from MSU and take a national examination through the American Society for Clinical Pathologists or the National Certification Agency. They will then be qualified to practice as a Medical Laboratory Scientist.

Plan B is for students who wish to attend four complete years at MSU and then independently seek an approved hospital training program in MLS for a one-year internship. Once training is complete, they will also be qualified to take a national registry exam and become certified as a MLS. This certification qualifies them for graduate education and careers in:

- clinical analysis (microbiology, hematology, chemistry, and immunohematology)
- medical research
- industry (product development, sales, maintenance of equipment, etc)
- public health laboratories
- health care administration

## Microbiology Minor (Non-Teaching)

A Microbiology minor is available to provide interested students with an understanding of the microbial basis of health and disease and environmental microbiology. Eligibility for a minor in Microbiology requires 29 credits in Microbiology and supporting subjects. This minor will complement other majors for those pursuing graduate school and professional programs in medical, dental, veterinary, ecological, industrial, pharmaceutical and related areas. The minor will also strengthen the background of science majors who wish to become more competitive in the job market.

## Genetics Minor

Genetics is one of the fundamental disciplines that supports the field of biology. The departments that contribute to genetics teaching and research collaborated to develop the Genetics Minor to provide students with a focused experience in microbial, plant and animal genetics, and to permit exploration of specialties ranging from bioinformatics through molecular, evolutionary and quantitative genetics. The Genetics Minor is available in the departments of Animal and Range Sciences, Cell Biology and Neurosciences, Computer Science, Ecology, Microbiology and Immunology, and Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology. Each participating department has a certifying officer for the Genetics Minor to help students decide whether this option is appropriate.

Standards for the Genetics Minor are consistent across all participating departments: a student must receive a grade of C- or better in all courses required for the minor. In consultation with the Genetics Advisor, the student will select a minimum of 16 credits from the list of elective courses.

## Undergraduate Research Participation

An undergraduate research program, available to students who demonstrate an interest and ability, is open to non-majors as well as majors in Microbiology. The aim of this program is to foster increased creativity, imagination, inquisitiveness, and independence.

## Departmental Honors in Microbiology

When appropriate, majors should consider the opportunities afforded by the departmental honors program. This program has the following components:

- A minimum 3.5 grade-point average (GPA) in Microbiology, 3.0 GPA overall
- A minimum of four credits of undergraduate research credit
- An acceptable, bound senior thesis, and an oral defense of the thesis

Participation in a Microbiology seminar (BIOM 494) during the senior year is the required capstone course for graduation. As many as two BIOM 494 seminars (1 credit each) may be applied toward graduation

when taken in the junior or senior years. A detailed description of the microbiology program is available from the department.

## Undergraduate Programs

- Microbiology Option: Microbiology Track (<http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/microbiology/microbiology-option-microbiology-track>)
- Microbiology Option: Pre-Medical Track (<http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/microbiology/microbiology-option-premedical-track>)
- Microbiology Option: Pre-Veterinary Track (<http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/microbiology/microbiology-option-prevet-track>)
- Microbiology Option: Environmental Microbiology Track (<http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/microbiology/microbiology-option-environmental-microbiology-track>)
- Microbiology Option: Environmental Health Track (<http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/microbiology/microbiology-option-environmental-health-track>)
- Medical Laboratory Science Option (<http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/microbiology/medical-laboratory-science-option-31-program->)

## Undergraduate Minors

- Genetics Minor (Non-Teaching) (<http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/agriculture/genetics-minor>)
- Microbiology Minor (Non-Teaching) (<http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/microbiology/microbiology-minor-nonteaching>)

The Department of Microbiology and Immunology (MBI) conducts one of the premier infectious disease research programs in the Northwest, as demonstrated by the success of our faculty in competing nationally for extramural grant funding and publishing high-impact papers. Research funding comes from a range of sources such as the National Institutes of Health, US Department of Agriculture, National Science Foundation and the Montana Agricultural Experimental Station among others. Over the past five years, MBI averaged over \$6 million for annual research expenditures. MBI is also home to an NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Zoonotic and Emerging Infectious Diseases, which provides substantial core facilities and training opportunities for junior investigators. MBI is housed in a state-of-the-art facility with core laboratories for flow cytometry, cell biology, and molecular sciences, as well as pathogen containment facilities for small (BSL-3) and large animal research (ABSL-2). Instrumentation suites house equipment for DNA sequencing, genomic analysis, flow cytometry and cell sorting, and confocal microscopy.

## Graduate Programs

- M.S. in Microbiology and Immunology (Plan A) (<http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/letters-science/microbiology/ms-microbiology-plan-a>)
- M.S. in Microbiology and Immunology (Plan B) (<http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/letters-science/microbiology/ms-microbiology-plan-b>)
- Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology (<http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/letters-science/microbiology/phd-microbiology>)

### **Font Notice**

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.