

BIODEFENSE, MS

Banner Code: PP-MS-BIOD

Academic Advising

560 Founders Hall
Arlington Campus

A201 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus

The master's prepares students to become the next generation of biodefense and biosecurity professionals and scholars. This program provides students with a foundation in microbiology and biotechnology combined with a broader security and organizational context.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Admission Requirements

Please see the Graduate Admissions for information on graduate admission to George Mason University. Specific information on application requirements and deadlines for the Biodefense master's program may be found on the Schar admissions web site (<http://schar.gmu.edu/admissions>).

Completed applications for fall and spring semesters are reviewed on a rolling basis, with late applications considered on a space-available basis. Students may be admitted for nondegree study and apply a limited number of credits toward the master's degree should they choose to apply to the degree program later, in accordance AP.6.4.1 Change from Nondegree Status.

Policies

Academic Policies

Students admitted to a Schar program will be terminated from the Schar school upon receiving one grade of F and are no longer eligible to take courses in the school. Per university regulation, students are terminated from the university after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades in graduate courses.

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 36

The schedule of courses that students plan on taking should be approved in an education plan designed by the students and their advisor during the student's first semester. Students must receive the permission of their advisor to take courses outside of the Biodefense Program.

Core Courses

Students are strongly encouraged to take the core courses as early as possible because they provide the foundation for the rest of the program.

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|---------------|---|----|
| BIOD 604 | Emerging Infectious Diseases I: Bacteria and Toxins | 3 |
| BIOD 605 | Emerging Infectious Diseases II: Viral Agents | 3 |
| BIOD 609 | Biodefense Strategy | 3 |
| BIOD 620 | Global Health Security Policy | 3 |
| BIOD 710 | Health Security Preparedness | 3 |
| GOVT 500 | The Scientific Method and Research Design | 3 |
| Total Credits | | 18 |

Electives

| | | |
|--|--|----|
| Select 15 credits from the following: ¹ | | 15 |
| PUBP 511 | Statistical Methods in Policy Analysis | |
| PUBP 710 | Topics in Public Policy | |
| PUBP 756 | Global Medical Systems Policy Analysis | |
| PUBP 757 | Public Policy in Global Health and Medical Practice | |
| PUBP 758 | Global Threats and Medical Policies | |
| PUBP 765 | Human Smuggling and Trafficking | |
| PUBP 767 | Global Comparative Medical Practices, Ethics and Law | |
| PUBP 770 | Global Health and Medical Policy Analysis | |
| PUBP 783 | Global Governance | |
| GOVT 511 | Problem Solving and Data Analysis I | |
| GOVT 540 | International Relations | |
| GOVT 641 | Global Governance | |
| GOVT 742 | International Negotiation | |
| GOVT 744 | Foundations of Security Studies | |
| GOVT 745 | International Security | |
| PUAD 630 | Emergency Planning and Preparedness | |
| PUAD 631 | Disaster Response Operations and Recovery | |
| PUAD 635 | Emergency Preparedness: Interagency Communication and Coordination | |
| PUAD 637 | Managing Homeland Security | |
| ANTH 631 | Refugees in the Contemporary World | |
| GCH 543 | Global Health | |
| Any BIOD course | | |
| Total Credits | | 15 |

¹ Other courses must be approved by the program advisor. Up to six elective credits may be taken outside of Schar.

Capstone

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|---------------|---------------------------------|---|
| BIOD 790 | Global Health Security Capstone | 3 |
| Total Credits | | 3 |

Accelerated Master's

Bachelor's Degree (any)/Biodefense, Accelerated MS

Overview

Highly qualified undergraduates in any major may apply to the accelerated Biodefense, MS. If accepted, students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree in their chosen major and a Biodefense, MS with a reduced number of overall credits and within a reduced time frame, sometimes within five years.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Admission

Please see the Graduate Admissions for general information on graduate admission to George Mason University. Information specific to the accelerated MS program may be found on the Schar website (<http://schar.gmu.edu/programs/undergraduate-degrees/accelerated-masters-programs>).

To be considered for this accelerated master's program, applicants must have completed a minimum of 75 credits and have a minimum GPA of 3.50 in all coursework applied to the degree.

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete two graduate courses (six credits) that may be counted toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees. In addition, students may take another two courses (six credits) to be held as reserve graduate credit and count only toward the master's degree. The courses are BIOD 604 Emerging Infectious Diseases I: Bacteria and Toxins, GOVT 500 The Scientific Method and Research Design, BIOD 605 Emerging Infectious Diseases II: Viral Agents and BIOD 620 Global Health Security Policy. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in these courses and in coursework applied to their major.

Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, students must submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form to apply credits to the master's degree. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree (excluding summer).