

BIODEFENSE, MS

Banner Code: PP-MS-BIOD

Academic Advising

560 Founders Hall
Arlington Campus

359 Research Hall
Fairfax Campus

Website: schar.gmu.edu

The Master of Science in Biodefense 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 Graduate Admissions (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) 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 website (<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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-4-1>).

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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/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.

Code	Title	Credits
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

Code	Title	Credits
Select 15 credits from the following: ¹		15
POGO 511	Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government	
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	Ethics in Health Policy	
PUBP 770	Health Policy Analysis	
PUBP 783	Global Governance	
GOVT 540	International Relations	
GOVT 641		
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	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
Any BIOD course (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/biod/)		
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

Code	Title	Credits
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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>). For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

Admission

Please see the Graduate Admissions (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) 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).