This graduate certificate addresses the growing national and regional demand for trained computational biologists by combining a solid foundation in biotechnology with computational skills relevant to bioinformatics. With online and in-classroom courses, the flexibility of this certificate’s structure permits students to custom design their curriculum under an advisor’s guidance, making the graduate certificate especially relevant for students employed in today’s diverse Northern Virginia high-technology workplace. Ideal candidates for this certificate are those who have a background in biological and computer sciences, and are currently working in or planning to enter the fields of biotechnology or bioinformatics. The certificate is also highly relevant for students who are interested in advancing their career goals but may not have adequate time available to undertake a graduate degree program.

All courses are also offered online, allowing students to participate in class without having to travel to campus. Further information can be found with Mason Online (http://masononline.gmu.edu).

The certificate may be pursued on a part-time or full-time basis.

**Admissions & Policies**

**Admissions**

University-wide admissions policies can be found in the Graduate Admissions Policies section of this catalog. To apply for this program, please complete the George Mason University Admissions Application (https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now).

Applicants should hold a BA or BS degree in a discipline related to biological or computer science from a regionally accredited university, with a minimum GPA of 3.00. Applicants should have taken courses in molecular biology, computer science, calculus, physical chemistry, or statistics, and should also possess working knowledge of a computer programming language. To apply, prospective students should complete a George Mason University Admissions Application (https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now), supply two copies of official transcripts from each college and graduate institution attended, and a current résumé. TOEFL scores are required of all international applicants.

**Policies**

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