The EBIO graduate program provides advanced training in a wide variety of biological disciplines ranging from biogeochemistry to community ecology to evolutionary genetics. The goal of the EBIO graduate program is to produce scientists, educators and citizens who are equipped with skills to build careers that advance knowledge about life on Earth. Graduates of the EBIO program are well-positioned to pursue a wide range of careers that include academia, science education, wildlife biology, conservation biology, resource management, environmental consulting and environmental law.

Our disciplinary strengths include behavior, ecology, genetics, morphology and systematics. Roughly half of the faculty focus on the adaptation and functioning of organisms in the context of environment, while the other half study higher levels of organization, including populations, communities and ecosystems. Our research programs have relevance for global change, conservation biology, and revealing fundamental mechanisms underlying the structural and functional adaptations of organisms.

Please contact ebiograd@colorado.edu for additional information.

Course code for this program is EBIO.

Master's Degree

- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology - Master of Arts (MA) (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/ecology-evolutionary-biology/ecology-evolutionary-biology-master-arts-ma)

Doctoral Degree

- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/ecology-evolutionary-biology/ecology-evolutionary-biology-doctor-philosophy-phd)

Faculty

While many faculty teach both undergraduate and graduate students, some instruct students at the undergraduate level only. For more information, contact the faculty member’s home department.

Adams, William (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_103612) Professor; PhD, Australian National University

Armstrong, David M. 
Professor Emeritus

Barger, Nichole Nannette (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_131398) Associate Professor; PhD, Colorado State University

Basey, John M. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_105539) Senior Instructor; PhD, University of Nevada, Reno

Bekoff, Marc 
Professor Emeritus

Bock, Carl L.E. 
Professor Emeritus

Bock, Jane H. 
Professor Emerita

Bonde, Erik K. 
Professor Emeritus

Bowers, M. Deane (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_101746) Professor, Chair; PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Bowman, William D. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_105191) Associate Chair, Professor; PhD, Duke University

Breed, Michael D. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_103631) Professor; PhD, University of Kansas

Carpenter, J Harrison (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_115915) Senior Instructor; MS, Michigan Technological University

Clauset, Aaron (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_147554) Associate Professor; PhD, University of New Mexico

Crumpacker, David W. 
Professor Emeritus

Cundiff, Milford F. 
Associate Professor Emeritus

Davies, Kendi F. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_142304) Associate Professor; PhD, Australian National Univ (Australia)

Demmig-Adams, Barbara (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_105649) Professor; Dr habil, Univ of Wurzburg (Germany)

Emery, Nancy Christine (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_151238) Assistant Professor; PhD, University of California, Davis

Evans, Luke M. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_156753) Assistant Professor; PhD, Northern Arizona University

Fierer, Noah (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_142240) Associate Professor; PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara

Flaxman, Samuel M. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_145698) Associate Professor; PhD, Cornell University

Johnson, Pieter T.J. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_143590) Associate Professor; PhD, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Kane, Nolan Coburn (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_151238) Assistant Professor; PhD, Indiana University Bloomington

Kociolek, John Patrick (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_145728) Professor; PhD, University of Michigan

Lewis, William M. Jr. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_102314) Professor; PhD, Indiana University Bloomington

Li, Jingchun (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_157561) Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Michigan
Courses

EBIO 5000 (1) EBIO Colloquia
All first year EBIO graduate students are required to attend the EBIO Colloquia Series. Speakers from around the world and within the department cover topics in all areas of biology.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 2.00 total credit hours.

EBIO 5030 (3) Limnology
Examines the ecology of inland waters, including a detailed consideration of physical, chemical and biological properties of freshwater ecosystems: origins and major characteristics of lakes and streams, survey of chemical and nutrient cycles in freshwater habitats and survey of biotic composition of freshwater environments. Important themes in modern freshwater ecology are considered, including energy flow, trophic structure, eutrophication and management of freshwater ecosystems.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4030
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 5060 (3) Landscape Ecology
Studies distributional patterns of communities and ecosystems, ecological processes that affect those patterns, and changes in pattern and process over time. Consideration of spatial and temporal scales in ecological analyses is required to understand and predict response to broad-scale environmental change.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4060
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 5080 (4) Freshwater Phycology
Algae are a non-monophyletic group of organisms that play critical roles in ecosystem structure and function. They have a long history of being used in a variety of ways by the human species, but are increasingly being applied to modern issues of understanding water quality and climate change, engineering at the nano scale and in the production of renewable biofuels.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4080
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 5100 (3) Advanced Ecology
Emphasizes specific aspects of ecology based on specialties of faculty. One or more courses are offered most semesters. Topics have included dynamics of mountain ecosystems, tundra ecology, ethnecology, population dynamics, tropical and insular biology, ecology of fishes, quantitative plant ecology, and arctic and alpine environments. May use animals and/or animal tissues.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4100
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 5120 (2-4) Advanced Ecology
Emphasizes specific aspects of ecology based on specialties of faculty. One or more courses are offered most semesters. Topics have included dynamics of mountain ecosystems, tundra ecology, ethnecology, population dynamics, tropical and insular biology, ecology of fishes, quantitative plant ecology and arctic and alpine environments. May use animals and/or animal tissues.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4120
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
EBIO 5150 (1-2) Techniques in Ecology
Emphasizes application of modern ecological techniques, such as stream biology, aquatic biology, environmental measurement and control, and techniques in geoecology.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4150
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.

EBIO 5240 (3) Advanced Topics in Animal Behavior
Covers special areas of ethology such as sociobiology, animal communication, cognitive ethology, human ethology, moral and ethical issues.
Recommended: Prerequisite EBIO 3240.

EBIO 5270 (4) Population Genetics
Provides an in-depth applied introduction to population genetics. Lectures, discussions, and labs will focus on exploring how evolutionary processes shape genetic variation through time and space and how population-level evolutionary processes can be inferred from patterns of genetic variation. While learning basic population genetic theory we will investigate current topics in the field and work with simulated and real data.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4270
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

EBIO 5290 (4) Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology
Reviews the principles and methodology of phylogenetic inference using molecular data. Emphasizes the application of comparative approaches to hypothesis testing in evolution, ecology and medicine and provides a broad foundation in both theory and practice of phylogenetics.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4290
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

EBIO 5320 (3) Current Topics in Evolutionary Biology
Examines six major themes on contemporary evolutionary research: population genetics, natural selection and adaptation, molecular evolution, evolution and development, phylogenetic systematics, and macroevolution. Emphasizes recent primary literature and sophisticated mastery.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 5340 (4) Conservation Biology and Practice in Brazil's Atlantic Forest
Field Studies. Examines the application of conservation principles in the Atlantic Forest of Brazil, a 'biodiversity-in-crisis' setting. Explores successful conservation strategies integrated with efforts to alleviate socioeconomic issues. Three-week Maymester, Study Abroad Global Seminar.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4340 and ENVS 4340 and ENVS 5340
Recommended: Prerequisite EBIO 2040 or ENVS 2000 or 2000/higher-level course in ANTH, EBIO, ENVS, EVEN, GEOG, IAFS or other discipline related to ecology or sustainability.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

EBIO 5410 (4) Biological Statistics
Lect. and lab. Offers a demanding, problems-oriented methods course in statistical inference procedures, assumptions, limitations, and applications emphasizing techniques appropriate to realistic biological problems. Includes data file management using interactive computing techniques.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4410
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 5420 (3) Computational Biology
Covers a wide range of techniques for simulating biological systems, developing computer programs and scripts to interact with data and making research shareable and reproducible.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4420
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

EBIO 5440 (4) Animal Developmental Diversity
Surveys development in a range of vertebrate and invertebrate systems to reconstruct the common bilaterian ancestor, and elucidate the developmental genetic changes underlying animal diversification. Lab focuses on vertebrate embryos and explores key methods in evolutionary developmental biology including in situ hybridization, embryo microinjection, and transgenesis.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4440 and MCDB 4441 and MCDB 5441
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 5460 (1-5) Special Topics
Familiarizes students with specialized areas of biology.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4460
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 9.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 5520 (4) Plant Systematics
Explores principles and techniques in modern plant systematics from lichens and non-vascular plants to lycophytes, ferns, gymnosperms and angiosperms. Framework is evolutionary and ecological, with emphasis on taxonomy of major lineages and families of plants. No prerequisites, but coursework in evolutionary biology, genetics, phylogenetics and/or other botany classes is strongly encouraged.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4520
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

EBIO 5560 (4) The Lichen Biome
Focuses on lichens as biologically diverse hubs of interactions, and will cover numerous dimensions of diversity within the symbiosis (algae, bacteria, and ecological and evolutionary relationships therein) and beyond it (diversity of lichen symbioses in nature, their functions, and conservation).
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4560
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 5600 (4) Evolutionary Ecology
Evaluates how interactions within species, among species and between species and the environment evolve over time. Emphasizes the development of scientific skills, including ecological, genetic and statistical tools for testing hypotheses in evolutionary ecology. Lab activities include research projects that quantify natural selection, gene flow and phenotypic plasticity in natural systems, and a semester-long class experiment examining plant dispersal.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4600
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

EBIO 5660 (4) Insect Biology
Lect. and lab. Introduction to evolution, ecology, physiology, and behavior of insects. Emphasizes how insects have solved problems, such as maintaining water balance or finding food, that are shared by all animals but for which there may be unique solutions among the insects. Agricultural and human health problems relative to entomology are discussed. Uses animals and/or animal tissues.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4660
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
EBIO 5740 (3) Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles  
Comparative morphology, taxonomy, ecology, behavior and geographic  
distribution of amphibians and reptiles. Uses animals and animal tissue.  
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4740

EBIO 5750 (4) Ornithology  
Lect., lab, and field trips. Presents origin, evolution, ecology, physical  
and behavioral characteristics and taxonomy of orders and families of  
birds of North America; field work with local species emphasizing avian  
ecology. Uses animals and/or animal tissues.  
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4750

EBIO 5760 (4) Mammalogy  
Lect., lab, and field studies. Discusses origin, evolution and adaptation,  
geographic distribution, ecology and taxonomy of mammals; field and  
laboratory study of Coloradan species. Uses animals and/or animal  
tissues.  
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4760 and  
MUSM 5760  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 5800 (3) Critical Thinking in Biology  
Lect. and discussion. Explores controversial issues, historical themes,  
or emerging developments in biology. Consult the EBIO Undergraduate  
Advising Center for current listings.  
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 4800  
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 12.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple  
enrollment in term.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.  
Recommended: Prerequisite minimum of 14 hours of EBIO course work.

EBIO 5820 (1) Graduate Writing Seminar  
Enhances writing proficiency, using graduate writing projects to  
implement the course concepts. Offers understanding of conventions  
and strategies used in scientific writing to prepare students for academic  
and professional communication. Department enforced requisite, basic  
proficiency in English as a written language.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 5840 (1-6) Independent Study (Master's Level)  
Instructor consent required.  
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple  
enrollment in term.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 6000 (1) Seminar: Introduction to Biological Research  
Discusses areas of biological research represented in EBIO. Required of  
all first-year graduate students in EBIO.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 6100 (1-3) Seminar in Environmental Biology  
Instructor consent required.  
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 6120  
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple  
enrollment in term.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 6120 (1-3) Seminar in Environmental Biology  
Instructor consent required.  
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 6100  
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple  
enrollment in term.

EBIO 6200 (1-3) Seminar in Population Biology  
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 6210  
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple  
enrollment in term.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 6210 (1-3) Seminar in Population Biology  
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: EBIO 6200  
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple  
enrollment in term.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 6300 (1-3) Seminar in Organismic Biology  
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple  
enrollment in term.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 6840 (1-7) Independent Research (Master's Level)  
Instructor consent required.  
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple  
enrollment in term.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 6940 (1) Master's Candidate for Degree  
Instructor consent required.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.  
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail  
EBIO 6950 (1-6) Master's Thesis  
Instructor consent required.  
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple  
enrollment in term.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 7840 (1-6) Independent Study (Doctoral Level)  
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple  
enrollment in term.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 8840 (1-6) Independent Research (Doctoral Level)  
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple  
enrollment in term.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

EBIO 8990 (1-10) Doctoral Dissertation  
Instructor consent required.  
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 30.00 total credit hours.  
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.